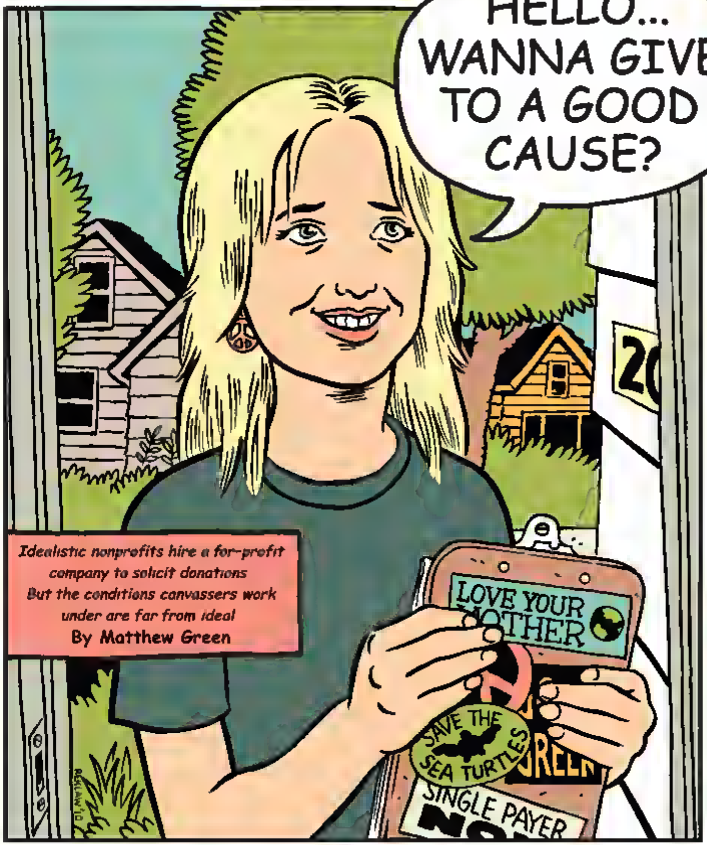
EAST BAY EXPRESS

NOVEMBER 3 9 2010



Idealistic nonprofits hire a for-profit company to solicit donations But the conditions canvassers work under are far from ideal

By Matthew Green



CULTURE SPY 19

THE SNUGGIE GOES DUMBIE

Local rap video wows the infomercial blankie company

By Rachel Swan

Twenty-five-year-old **Jesse Mecker** is pretty attuned to pop culture, but until about two months ago, he'd never heard of a **Snuggie**. He had apparently missed that spate of late-night infomercials that began with a woman lying on her couch, attempting to swaddle herself in blankets. "They slip and slide! When you want to reach for something, your hands are trapped inside!" He'd apparently never seen an **OKCupid** profile that listed "Snuggie" under "Object I could not live without" or "The most private thing I'm willing to admit about myself." When Mecker heard that Snuggie was holding a contest to see who could make the best three-minute advertisement for its line of giant, sleeved blankets, he was intrigued. *Story inside*

NEWS 10

OAKLAND VERSUS LEHMAN BROTHERS

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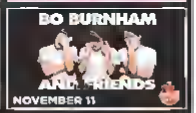
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You Mischaracterized My Argument

In July Youngdahl's account of the SEIU-NUHW election at Kaiser, he quotes from one of my Beyond Chron articles — "If workers find that was to the truth NUHW can prevail" — to falsely conclude that "this implies that these Kaiser workers are just not as smart as NUHW supporters such as him self." Nothing I wrote could reasonably lead to this conclusion. Youngdahl either never read my stories and/or intentionally ignored my main points about SEIU's campaign.

I described on September 7 ("SEIU Uses Fear, Lies and Mailbags to Sway Kaiser Workers") available at archive of Beyond Chron.org) and in subsequent pieces how SEIU based nearly its entire campaign on the false claim that workers would lose wages and benefits under their existing contract if they voted to join NUHW. The NLRB filed charges against Kaiser in July. September for denying contractual pay hikes to Kaiser workers who earlier voted to leave SEIU for NUHW. an action that occurred after most Kaiser workers in the recent election had voted. This meant that most Kaiser workers — no matter how smart — had little way of learning prior to casting their ballots that the NLRB, at least preliminarily found SEIU's chief campaign argument to be untrue.

This was the basis for my conclusion about Kaiser workers not learning the truth. And it was a truth too inconvenient for Youngdahl to mention in his article.

Youngdahl never explains why SEIU had to spend between $10-40 million to prevent losing 44,000 of its own members for and away the most money any union has spent to avoid decertification. If SEIU felt its workers were to use Youngdahl's terms, "smart enough" to back their current union, it would not have subjected workers to a mass advertising, mailing and robo-call blitz that greatly exceeded our votes what New York City's Mayor Bloomberg and California's Meg Whitman spent combined in their races.

Randy Shaw Editor BeyondChron.org San Francisco

It's Also Happening in Berkeley

I was impressed with the responses to the article "Inspections from Hell" by Stephanie Rice. Years ago on Parker Street in Berkeley, I had reason to believe that the City of Berkeley was trying to take a Filipino woman's property, and tenants were told not to pay the rent. The same thing happened on Russell Street. It has been standing John for years that the Mafia has been involved in building inspections and city planning because that's where a lot of the money is. Code inspectors can literally take property away from homeowners by sabotage and pay-offs.

After Joshua Foster (then Berkeley Housing Authority director) was taken to jail in handcuffs for alleged crimes of stealing approximately twenty years ago, the landlady managed to keep his property, but not with out a struggle. Apparently, all Section 8 tenants were forced to flee or lose their housing vouchers and the landlady had to prove that the code violations were not his fault. She blamed the Section 8 tenants instead.

I knew an acquaintance living in Berkeley and she told me the building she moved into on Parker Street was a "house of horrors." I felt concerned for her because she had never had to live in this environment, having just left the more upscale Piedmont Avenue for the more downtrodden Parker Street residence. My acquaintance also told me there were fights, one of which she broke up between two young women. She didn't know it then, but she said she should have been on the landlord's side. She knew the landlord had threatened to sue the Berkeley Housing Authority, so the City of Berkeley came after the landlord. Berkeley City employees have been known to protect each other by complaints because city employees don't want to have the city sued or lose their jobs.

I also understand that the Berkeley City Council gave in to the BHA and its director, which means that 75 people, mostly black, will be losing their housing because of the numerous affair between the "In People" and the big corporations. It's about time the City of Berkeley was served with a class action suit.

At this point, we can't be sure that some landlords don't fall under the category of "favored landlord status" as in the Carlos Reme days. However, a sneaky contractor without the proper license doing plumbing may have been caught red handed by a building inspector when the work had already been done. It appeared that the contractor was chastised and not punished because the owner was actually a landlord

corporation. I know there is a jail sentence for this because in Idaho where I once lived there was a maintenance worker who was arrested for doing plumbing as a favor for a neighbor.

Knowing this, I don't want to find myself in the same predicament as Jerome Hoffa. I prefer to be anonymous, but I realize I can't be because the *East Bay Express* requests that we use our names.

Geoffrey Hartshorne Oakland

Nice Job, But

I was interested to see your article on the Alameda Building and Planning Department. I thought your story was very well written with respect to the parts of it that I am familiar with, with the exception of the reporting of Mr. Skrinde's allegation that inspector Carder solicited a bribe from him. Although your writing properly identified this as merely an allegation several years have now passed and it was never proven to be true. Moreover, although Mr. Carder is a very long time employee of the city, the fact that no one stepped forward to make a similar allegation since Mr. Skrinde's complaint was made public ought to give one serious pause. There have been serious issues about Alameda's building and planning department over the years, and I think your story would have been better without repeating this particular allegation.

Laurence Pavlosky, Alameda

I Liked You Better Before

Your one-sided liberal reporting is a joke. Yes, Perata is a snob, but arrogant Quan and demented Kaplan are reprehensible far-left extremists who also engage in dirty politics. But you biased supporters at the *Express* of these dishonest left politicians give them a progressive left pass.

Figueroa uses some fake Southern Alameda County residence — a falling-down shack — as an address and lives (I bet fraud?) across the bay, but I didn't see that in your coverage. Your political coverage in recent years has become a dishonest agenda driven far-left big government tax and spend socialist ideology, like the other silly leftist freebies, the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. The *Express* did a better job before you extremist Berkeley lefties got control of it.

Warren Day, Berkeley

Editor's Note

Actually, it was Robert Gammon of the *East Bay Express* who first broke the story about Figueroa lying about her residence, in our June 23 issue. (See "Las Figueroa Lies About Her Residence.")

To share this story, type eastbay.jp/letters

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.





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LAST-MINUTE BIG MONEY IN OAKLAND RACES

A Hollywood producer and the California nurses union comes out late for Rebecca Kaplan while outside groups also at tempted to sway a council contest.

By Rabe t Gamino)

For weeks it looked as f Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan**s campaign for mayor ot Oakland might not have enough money for a traditional last-minute advertising blitz. But then last week, Hollywood film producer **Bryan Zuriff** pumped $148,000 into a new committee that formed to support Kaplan s candidacy campaign finance records show

The new committee was created by Oakland Port Commissioner **Michael Lighty** and the **California Nurses Association**, which also has reported spending $66,000 on Kaplan s behalf The $214,000 in eleventh-hour expenditures supporting Kaplan represented the only major outside expenditures for a mayoral candidate in the race other than ex-senator **Don Perata.**

The new large expenditures were designed to boost a late Kaplan surge in what looked to be a close election It also was an indication that the nurses' union believes Kaplan has a legitimate shot at winning The union s other major efforts this r ear were on behalf of **Jerry Brown** and **Barbara Boxer** The new spending also helped Kaplan get her message out, because she had not been able to raise as much money as Councilwoman **Jean Quan**, who flooded Oakland with mailers in recent weeks. As for Perata, he outspent all the candidates by a huge margin.

The California Nurses Association, itself reported spending $53 000 on a mailer for Kaplan The nurses union then donated $15,000 to a new committee it set up with Lighty called **Citizens for Rebecca Kaplan for Oakland Mayor 2010** Zuriff whose film credits include the Academy Award-nominated film *The Messenger* donated his $148,000 to that committee The committee paid for ads touting Kaplan s candidacy and attempted to position her as the alternative to Perata and Quan.

Zuriff, who works with well-known Hollywood film and TV producer **Mark Gordon**, did not return a phone calls seeking comment for this story, which first appeared last week on the *Express* web site Consequently it s unclear why he decided to spend so much money on Kaplan s behalf State records show that Zuriff is not a big financial player in California politics.

Like Kaplan Lighty is a prominent member of Oakland s gay and lesbian community and he s a former longtime member of the city's planning commission If elected Kaplan would be the first openly lesbian mayor of a large California city.

Lighty, however directed inquiries about the new Kaplan committee to **Martha Kuhl** a board member of the nurses' union. Kuhl s nurse at Children s Hospital and the union decided to endorse Kaplan set up the committee, and make expenditures on her behalf after interviewing her Kuhl said Kaplan s committee to setting progressive public health policies in the city. Kuhl, however, could not provide insight into why Zuriff was funding the new committee.

As for Kaplan she said she had never heard of Zuriff before last week. She also said she did not coordinate with Lighty, the nurses union, or Zuriff, doing so would have been illegal under state and local laws. Still her campaign clearly appeared excited about the last-minute spending.

The new committee, however, wasn't the only one reporting large expenditures on behalf of a mayoral candidate in the days before the election **Coalition for a Safer California**, a Sacramento group with close ties to Perata, reported spending $55,000 on a new round of TV ads on his behalf along with $26,000 on a new mailer touting Perata s candidacy and attacking Quan The group later put out another hit-piece on Quan, pushing its total spending on behalf of Perata over the $240,000 mark. Overall committees supporting Perata spent well over $1 million trying to get him elected, smashing previous Oakland campaign expenditure records.

Oakland Council Cash

Last minute cash also was injected into the contest to replace Quan on the council. Records show that **Joe O'Donoghue** of the influential **San Francisco Residential Builders Association** poured $47 500 into the Oakland City Council District 4 race in an attempt to elect politico newcomer **Jill Broadhurst.**

IT'S UNCLEAR WHY O'DONOGHUE WOULD HAVE INJECTED HIMSELF IN AN OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL RACE WHEN HE HAS NOT DONE SO IN THE PAST — UNLESS IT WAS TO HELP PLAZOLA.

As this newspaper first reported on its web site last week, O'Donoghue funneled the substantial donation through the local landlord group **Alameda Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County** which then sent out several mailers, touting Broadhurst s candidacy But several Oakland sources say this was an alternative motive for the influx of cash -- bad blood between O Donoghue s friend and business associate **Carlos Plazolo** and Broadhurst's competitor **Libby Schaaf**

Plazola and Schaaf used to work side-by-side as aides for Councilman **Ignacio De La Fuente**, but several knowledgeable sources say they never got along. Plazola has been known over the years for his ethically questionable dealings, while Schaaf has a reputation for being a straight shooter And now that Plazola is a lobbyist for developers, he might have difficulty getting face-time with Schaaf if she were to win. Plazola endorsed Broadhurst

In addition at least one of the O'Donoghue-financed mailers took a swipe at Schaaf. The mailer didn't mention her by name, but it accused a competitor of Broadhurst's as being beholden to the existing power structure. "In City Hall Insiders and Politicians Are Supporting One of Their Own for Council District 4," the mailer read. The reference obviously referred to Schaaf because she was the only candidate in the race who had worked at Oakland City Hall having also served as an aide to the city council and to former Mayor **Jerry Brown**. She also has been endorsed by several council members including De La Fuente.

In an interview, Schaaf declined to comment on her rocky relationship with Plazola But she said Plazola knows from working with her that she'll be an "independent" voter on the council. "He knows that I have Oakland s best interests at heart, and that I'll do what I think is best for the city." As for O Donoghue she said, "I think it s disappointing that a single San Francisco developer is manipulating Oakland s campaign finance rules to try to influence the outcome of the election."

Neither Plazola nor O'Donoghue returned phone calls seeking comment for this story. The two are friends and worked together on a proposed 42-story condo tower on Lake Merritt, known as the Emerald Views. O'Donoghue is friends with the project's sponsor and Plazola was their lobbyist In addition, it's unclear why O'Donoghue would have injected himself in such a big way in an Oakland City Council race when he has not done so in the past — unless it was to help Plazola

Sources said the other possibility is that O'Donoghue and Plazola might have been worried that even though Schaaf is generally pro-development, she may turn out to be like Councilwoman Pat Kernighan Kernighan had been expected to be a sure vote for developers when first elected. Kernighan also has questions about the Emerald Views project Plazola and O Donoghue will need all the votes they can muster to win approval of the controversial development.

As for Broadhurst she also did not respond to a request for comment. But sources said they have no reason to believe that Broadhurst made a quid pro quo with Plazola or O'Donoghue. Instead, it appears as if they believed they'd have a better shot with her than with Schaaf.

Schaaf meanwhile, also benefitted from a mailer that was sent by the **Alameda County Democratic Party** but was apparently financed by the **Oakland Chamber of Commerce**'s political committee, OakPAC. The last minute expenditure wasn't reported to the Oakland City Clerk s Office as required by law

Three-Dot Roundup

Chevron penned $1 million into Richmond political races in an effort to elect or reelect three candidates who have been a consistent vote for the oil giant over the years -- **Nat Bates Maria Viramontes**, and **Ludmyrna Lopez** And local card clubs spent at least $119 000 in support of politicians who opposed the giant **Point Molate Casino** proposal and against those who favored it . A political group with close ties to Perata used $25,000 in donations it received from the owners of the **Oakland A's** to help finance two ballot measures against Quan. Perata has no plans to fight the A's planned move to San Jose but Quan said she would. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510

WHY TORTURE STILL MATTERS

The latest WikiLeaks revelations should shine a spotlight back on US-sanctioned torture and its corrosive effect on our society. So why haven't they?

By Joy Youngdahl

Pinstriped suits along Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, near Sproul Plaza in protests exclaiming "John Yoo — War Criminal." Yoo, of course, was the prime legal enabler of torture in the Justice Department of President George Bush, and now teaches at Cal's Boalt Hall School of Law. Given the most recent torture revelations by WikiLeaks, and the shameful mainstream media responses to them, I am proud of whoever put those posters up.

Last week several major newspapers published stories based on 391,832 previously secret US military field reports that detail the often unreported realities of the war in Iraq. These newly leaked US government documents came from the web site WikiLeaks, and expose revelations of grotesque policies by our government and its allies in the war in Iraq.

The war logs showed that it was the US government's strategy to hand over Iraqi prisoners to our allies fully cognizant that this is what awaited these victims. The *Guardian* reported that "Hundreds of the leaked war logs reflect the lurid imagination of the torturer faced with the entirely helpless victim — bound, gagged, blindfolded and isolated — who is whipped by men in uniforms using wire cables, metal rods, rubber hoses, wooden stakes, TV antennae, plastic water pipes, engine fan belts or chains. At the torturer's whim, the logs reveal, the victim can be hung by his wrists or by his ankles; knotted up in stress positions; sexually molested or raped; tormented with hot peppers, cigarettes, and pliers or 'boiling water — and always with little fear of retribution since, far more often than not, if the Iraqi official is assaulting an Iraqi civilian no further investigation will be required."

The major American news outlets find this to be old news and have spent little time on it. But it is crucial to write and report about this torture because it has kind of conduct is corrosive to all that is good about our country. The effects will be profound and far-reaching. We cannot let it go unaired or unconfronted.

The leaks confirm what many Americans believe — that our government is staffed by liars at the very highest levels. The documents show that conscious governmental activity hid the true number of deaths in the war and the amount of torture that went on.

The prevalence of torture as official US policy supports hatred of Americans by confirming our country's standing throughout the world as a scofflaw. At this time of declining US economic power, this is very important. The UN has called on the president to order a full investigation of US forces involvement in these abuses under the UN Convention against Torture. Manfred Nowak, the UN's chief investigator on torture, said that UN human rights agreements obliged states to criminalize every form of torture, whether directly or indirectly, and to investigate any allegations of abuse. This administration's refusal to do this makes them international law breakers, he has concluded.

In addition to our government's law breaking, the justification of torture pushes those who become complicit in it, explicitly or not, into hypocritical positions, as, for instance, UC Berkeley has been permanently besmirched by manufacturing a definition of academic freedom that protects torturers like Yoo. In order to protect torturers, the Obama administration has had to work to expand in a Nixonian fashion a definition of executive power that is scary for ordinary Americans. And, since anything "we" do is good and anything "they" do is bad, we now have the bizarre situation in which "Terrorism — bad and torture — good." Tell me the moral code that supports this interpretation.

The most important damage from this whole affair comes in this corruption of our own country's morality. It serves to destroy whatever moral compass we have left as a people.

Sure we can block out images of torture. We can try and keep our kids from hearing about it or watching it. But hundreds of thousands of American troops who either participated in torture or saw it go on are coming home. They will be indelibly scarred by this inhumane activity. Like the vets of the Vietnam War who lived a life of emotional turmoil after their service. We cannot erase them. Last year 239 soldiers killed themselves, and another 1,713 soldiers survived suicide events. A RAND Corporation study found that one third of returning troops had mental-health problems. Those who were involved in torture are sure to be in the worst shape of all. The Iraq Veterans Against the War, a broad group of Iraq veterans and active duty military, has issued a call for accountability from those who sent them to war.

HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN TROOPS WHO EITHER PARTICIPATED IN TORTURE OR SAW IT GO ON ARE COMING HOME. THEY WILL BE INDELIBLY SCARRED BY THIS ....

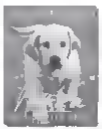
Additionally, the official attitude toward torture justifies and legitimates cruelty between people. How are we supposed to get worked up about human-rights abuses in Darfur and other troubled spots when our own country participates in the same type of conduct? Closer to home, this activity has the effect of marginalizing action against worrisome antisocial activity. How can we lecture kids about the evils of bullying when they hear that their leaders are engaged in activity far more reprehensible than bullying?

It is disgusting and distasteful, but the spotlight must stay on torture if our nation is to reclaim our tarnished humanity. So I, for one, will continue to appreciate those veterans who expose what they were ordered to do as well as those who put up those war criminal posters on Telegraph. They are doing important work. ●

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LEGALIZATION NATION

THE FRONTIERS OF CANNABIS PSYCHIATRY

Plus wannabe Oakland pot farmers' On your mark, get set, ...

By David Downs

This week, we provide a respite from breathless election coverage with the conclusion of *Legalization Nation*'s conversations with Dr. Julie Holland, former head of the psychiatric emergency room at Bellevue Hospital in New York. Specializing in drugs and the brain, Dr. Holland is a clinical assistant professor at NYU School of Medicine and author of *Ecstasy: The Complete Guide*. Holland spent three years researching *The Pot Book*, a hefty 555-page primer on the risks and rewards of the plant, written in conjunction with 52 doctors, academics, writers, and thinkers, including Michael Pollan, Neal Pollack, and Doug Rushkoff. For print interviews with Dr. Holland, visit us online. Here, we finish talking about the frontiers of cannabis psychiatry, and the plant's torrid past.

Legalization Nation: There's an entire urban column to write about cannabis in history, but I was most fascinated by what happened to it around the turn of the 20th century and why this book isn't called *The Marijuana Papers*.

Dr. Holland: This was a medicinal plant way before it became illegal. It was in the pharmacopeia, and when it started getting about the US pharmacopeia is until the early 1900s. It was almost all plants and botanicals. Plants and botanicals have a very long history of thousands and thousands of years of being medicine. I'm not a conspiracy theorist but Big Pharma really changed the way that we practice medicine in America and the pharmacopeia really changed.

What happens now is: You can't patent a plant, you have to create extracts and get these particular chemicals approved. You can standardize a chemical, but you can't standardize a plant. But the truth is there are many plants that are medicine and cannabis is one of them.

Legalization Nation: So where does *marijuana* come from then?

Dr. Holland: I did not want the word marijuana on the cover of the book and I had to convince [publisher] Inner Traditions that this is very important. Because, then were like, Well, not everyone knows what cannabis is, and I'm like, You know what they'll figure it out. There's a big green leaf on the cover. It's a *Thin Pot Book*. At some point they wanted to call it *The Marijuana Papers*. Which is funny. Ha Ha.

I didn't want the word marijuana on the cover because marijuana is a slur. Basically it's a racist slur that was politically motivated and created by Henry Anslinger. The idea was: Cannabis was a medicine that everybody knew, so they needed a new name. Everybody would have tincture of cannabis if they had cramps or if they had trouble sleeping, or if they were anxious. But the idea was, you should take cannabis. Everybody knew what cannabis was and they needed someone at it with doctors, so Anslinger wanted to call it something new.

They called it *marijuana*, which was what the Mexican migrant workers were calling it and this son of this idea, you know. Look up your daughters, because this Mexicans are smoking their hemp weed and they're going to attack them. It was this idea that the drug would make them so unpredictable and crazy that bad things would happen. Between Mexicans smoking, and then the black jazz musicians that were smoking them mezz, they really hyped up the brown and black people using this drug as, That is what the danger is about.

And we still totally have this problem. There is injustice about who gets arrested and prosecuted. Whites use more pot than Latinos and African Americans, but the prisons are full of blacks and brown people doing time for non-violent drug offenses and it drives me crazy, nothing has changed.

Legalization Nation: I really enjoyed Doug Rushkoff's chapter on how dangerous pot is mostly because he says it stops time and that can really make some people ask themselves some serious questions.

Dr. Holland: It does make you take a timeout, step back and see the big picture. You stop and re-assess. I think that's dangerous. Back in the Sixties, that's what they were afraid of, was this subversiveness. ... People who don't understand pot think that it's an escape-y kind of thing and you're not really there. Really, it's something where you're even more present and even more times you're immersed in the now and you're not taken away somewhere else.

I think immersion in the now is therapeutic. In terms of meditation and being mindful, the first step is to stop doing and be aware and pay attention and be in the now and pot does help you with all those things.

Legalization Nation: The *Pot Book* collects a lot of great empirical evidence that I keep hearing more and more about, yet we still have a very propagandized electorate that goes to the polls every year. Does that ever make you depressed?

Dr. Holland: Look, I'm a doctor and I didn't know all this stuff. So it's become important to me to disseminate this information. It really am an optimist. I really believe the truth wins over and knowledge is power.

Seeds & Stems

California's 58th City of Oakland prepares to issue its request for pot farm applications soon. Dozens of groups are expected to compete for four highly coveted growing permits. Check our web site for details. ●

Editor's Note: This issue of Legalization Nation went to print before the election. For post-election analysis, go to our blog, EastBayExpress.com/blogs/LegalizationNation.

David.Downs@gmail.com

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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ECO WATCH

THE TULE ELK HUNT OF 2010

State officials allowed East Bay's tule elk herd to be hunted even though some environmentalists say the number of animals is in decline

By Robert Gammon

The East Bay's tule elk herd draws visitors to the Sunol region throughout the year. But some environmentalists say the herd has recently been in decline. They suspect that illegal poaching of the large, majestic animals near **Sunol** and **Ohlone Regional Wilderness** parks has caused their numbers to drop to fewer than sixty. So it came as a big surprise when the **California Department of Fish and Game** recently allowed a legal hunt of the East Bay herd for the first time in more than a century.

John Krause, a Fish and Game wildlife biologist, said that the agency opened up the East Bay herd to hunting this year because the agency's surveys are different than those done by environmentalists. They show the herd is not getting smaller and that it remains substantial. But he also said that no elk was killed in the official hunt.

Still, some environmentalists believe Fish and Game acted hastily. "I think they have this philosophy of 'Let's provide maximum opportunity for hunters,'" said **Jeff Miller**, executive director of the **Alameda Creek Alliance**, who has been monitoring the Sunol tule elk herd for years. "The agency is primarily concerned with providing hunting and fishing opportunities."

A few years ago, Miller was instrumental in protecting the elk herd from a planned new rock quarry in Sunol. But he and other environmentalists didn't learn of the hunt until after it began. The department had quietly alerted experienced hunters that it was opening up the Sunol herd for hunting and would issue one hunting tag. That meant hunters would have to apply, and then the department issued one license to a single hunter. Killing one elk out of a herd of about sixty may not sound bad, but the consequences could have been devastating.

The reason is that the hunting tag was for an adult male. And herds typically have very few adult males, because the dominant ones run them off. What's left is a single male with twenty to thirty females in a harem, meaning a herd of sixty males may only have two or three adult males. The hunt itself was only allowed on private property. Miller said he heard reports that private land owners in the Sunol area were offering up to $5,000 to hunt on their property.

Over the next several months, Miller and other environmentalists plan to carefully review Fish and Game's official reasons for allowing the hunt — once they become clearer. Miller said they then may either heavily lobby the agency not to allow hunting again next year — or attempt to convince the department to change its rules. ■

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Ian Kelly

Thanks to the efforts at Oakland's city attorney, Oak Knoll now has a security detail, and many dangerous buildings have been demolished.

WILL LEHMAN ABANDON OAK KNOLL?

As the company enters bankruptcy, Oakland's city attorney is fighting to make it honor its commitments

By Rob Kelly

The crumbling rows of concrete stumps at **Oak Knoll Naval Hospital** stick out of the ground like gravestones, pale and perfectly outlined as though the officers who once lived there are now buried below. In the distance, the eight-story shell of a hospital building might even make for a fine mausoleum were it not for the big, black, graffiti announcing that "KIM IS A SLUT." It's a gruesome city, has been for ages, to see spring up — the tombstones were once handblown for the land of ruin, abandoned tinderboxes that only copper thieves and amateur photographers enjoy. Now the shuttered base is cleaner and safer than it's been in years, with security patrolling the site day and night and goats from Orinda's **Goats R Us** keeping the coyote brush at bay.

Just a year ago, Oakland City Attorney **John Russo** called the 167-acre site "disgusting" — an asbestos-dusted dump tangled over with dead vegetation and debris, host to nearly a hundred hell wrecked wood structures ambushing strike or hit mulch away from disaster. Spurred to action by angry Oak Knoll neighbors fearing a repeat of the 1991 Oakland hills firestorm at the bankrupt land venture, Russo and his office in October 2009 took on the stalled project's developer, **SunCal** and its financial backer, **Lehman Brothers**, wrenching millions of dollars for hazard abatement from a cash flush subsidiary where Lehman was hiding its dough.

It was an unprecedented victory. No other public agency dealing with safety hazards and clean-up concerns at stalled SunCal sites had managed to take on the Lehman behemoth and leave with funds in hand. But Lehman appears determined to not let it happen again.

In its newest set of Chapter 11 plans for its California land ventures, the bank has introduced language that could prevent more than 85 other public agencies affected by 17 California projects affected by the bankruptcy case from enforcing their police powers at SunCal sites. Police powers — defined in the US Constitution as those powers not expressly delegated to the federal government covering everything from planning and zoning to public safety — are exactly how Oakland got its foot in the Santa Ana courthouse door. Neither a creditor nor a debtor in the bankruptcy case, the city used its police powers to force the bankrupt entity to remedy its blights, tear down the fire hazards and obey the law.

Now, as mortgage-lender Lehmann pushes forward with a new set of plans and a seemingly expedited schedule — a November 5 court date slated as a hearing on disclosure statements for the plans has been upended to a hearing on the plans themselves — the bank is enfranchising public agencies statewide with language that the Oakland city attorney's office believes is "inadequate," "unclear" and unlawful.

"Bankruptcy is not a get-out-of-obeying-the-law-free card," Russo said. "It shields you from creditors but it doesn't forgive you or absolve you from living up to the law like everybody else."

Describing the plan that would cover Oak Knoll, Lehman sketches the terms of an injunction that would stop anyone holding a claim against the debtor past or future, "including but not limited to states and other governmental units" from "commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding," "enforcing, attaching, executing, collecting or recovering in any manner any judgment, award, decree, or order" or "creating, perfecting, or enforcing any lien or encumbrance" against the relevant Lehman entities or those who might ultimately land the deed to Oak Knoll.

"If Lehman is successful in this latest sneaky attempt then in theory we could have a real mess in our hands for ten years," said **Donald Mitchell**, a leader of the Oak Knoll neighbors

who pushed the city to take on Lehman and SunCal. Freed from the basic requirements any developer must agree to in order to get its hands on the land, the current and future overseers of Oak Knoll could build to any density they desired, chop down as many trees as they wanted without securing tree removal permits, ignore traffic mitigation needs, suspend plans to knock down the crumbling hospital and even decide to put the costly contractors of Goats R Us out to pasture.

"They're going to be able to thumb their nose at Oakland," Mitchell said.

Attorneys for Lehman did not respond to a request for comments. But Oakland agrees with Mitchell. In its formal challenge, the city said it objects to the injunction and release "given that the property still requires corrective work, and the plan cannot purport to preclude enforcement of police powers in an effort to avoid liability for the necessary corrective work."

As of now, sources close to the city attorney's office say officials are optimistic that such work, including continued abatement and the hospital demolition, will be fully funded by the time any plan goes into effect. In addition to the $4.3 million it wrangled from Lehman last year, the city has recently managed to secure even more funding, with the bank promising $542,000 toward further work.

The judge in the Southern California bankruptcy court handling the case — which involves seventeen bankrupt Lehman-SunCal real-estate projects and several investment entities — also has ordered a mid-December hearing to discuss funding an additional $2.1 million of cleanup work in the Oakland hills. This should bring the total funding to around $6.9 million and will cover continued abatement, removal of the concrete stumps of former buildings and demolition of the eight story eyesore that once served as a hospital.

That amount is "a little over what our original claim without inflation added, requested," wrote Deputy City Attorney **Susan H. Mosk** in an e-mail obtained by the *Express*. "That means we received almost 100 cents on the dollar in the bankruptcy court — something that rarely happens."

Even if remedial work is finished before the plan goes into effect, attorneys for the city argue that on the most basic level a plan "cannot eliminate the power of local and state law enforcement and other agencies from enforcing their police powers. Any attempt to preclude enforcement of property regulations creates significant policy problems."

A list of the kinds of claims that could be washed away or prevented from ever being filed by such an injunction is featured in exhibit one of the plan covering Oak Knoll. It includes the abatement order that started the recovery at Oak Knoll as well as five health and safety notices served by **Contra Costa County** the **Bay Area Air Management District** and the **California Regional Water Quality Control Board** in their efforts to manage the East Bay's other eyesore SunCal project **Delta Coves** in northeast Contra Costa County.

That troubled development, a barren 320 acres of packed dirt and the skeletal beginnings of backyard boat slips, is a perfect example of the importance of police powers. The Bethel Island site — once set lacking in vegetation that SunCal contractors had to essentially glue down the ground with mulch fiber to prevent wind-borne sand from filling the gutters and inlets — has been a public safety headache for years. Shaped into a levee along a sunken bowl, the site and its pump system could present a flood risk to neighbors should the land owner be freed from repair agreements. The county's ongoing oversight of clean water erosion control and air quality, with regard to the blowing sand, will be nullified if Lehmann gets its way.

Even with police powers intact, public agencies overseeing Delta Coves had to play hardball with SunCal to get the most basic environmental remediation completed, threatening the developer with fines and investigating ways to use bonds posted by the developer to get the work funded.

Contra Costa County has not filed an objection with the bankruptcy court and counsel for the county declined to discuss the case. Whether the county is keeping an eye on what happens in the unexpectedly expedited hearing is unclear. But Contra Costa and other affected agencies are not alone in failing to get an objection registered. While Oakland, Los Angeles County and one Southern California city and school district have each filed objections — with LA blasting both the injunction and release and Lehman's scheme to wiggle out of paying the 18 percent yearly interest unpaid real estate taxes owed — the overwhelming majority of public agencies have not.

"BANKRUPTCY IS NOT A GET-OUT-OF-OBEYING-THE-LAW-FREE CARD," RUSSO SAID. "IT SHIELDS YOU FROM CREDITORS BUT IT DOESN'T FORGIVE YOU OR ABSOLVE YOU FROM LIVING UP TO THE LAW LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE."

"We don't want the standard operating procedure for large real estate concerns who go bankrupt ... to become that you can hold a bunch of real estate and then go bankrupt and then suddenly you don't have to obey any local laws," Russo said. "That's a terrible outcome. Frankly, it's an un-American outcome. It's un-American."

Whether the offending language remains in fact will be determined in upcoming hearings. It isn't the first time such an injunction and release has been inserted into a reorganization plan. In last year's **LandSource** bankruptcy case, the attorneys general successfully argued for the removal of similar terms that the state argued, would have prevented toxic remediation at Mare Island in Vallejo and reversed the constitution. But removing it was not an easy fight. The state argued with plan proponent **Barclays Bank** and developer **Lennar** until the final day of hearings.

In her e-mail, deputy city attorney Mosk indicates that Oakland officials have spoken to attorneys for the court appointed trustee in the case **Steven Speier** and that they hope agree that the language should be removed. Reached for comment, one of those attorneys **Michael Neue**, declined to address his take on the injunction and release saying only that the matter will be resolved shortly in the courts. ●

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STUDY FINDS AIR IN BAY AREA HOMES IS TOXIC

Not surprisingly, Richmond does poorly in a test of indoor air quality. But so does bucolic Bolinas

By Cyrill n Esch

Those dust bunnies behind the couch may be worse for you than you think. A recent study analyzing air and dust samples from homes in Richmond and Bolinas found more than a hundred separate household and industrial chemicals, most of which are believed to cause cancer and thyroid, reproductive, and neurological disorders.

Air found in homes in both locations contained phenols, a type of chemical found in detergents, paints, plastics, and pesticides that has been shown to harm reproduction in animals; polybrominated diphenyl ethers, which are found in flame retardants used in furniture, electronics, carpet, and baby products, and are believed to affect brain development and disrupt thyroid hormones; and PCBs, which are found in vinyl pesticides, plastic packaging, and wood finishes, and affect development and cause cancer.

Exposure to any one of these chemicals is probably something to worry about. But the cumulative impact is even worse, according to **Jessica Tovar**, a Richmond organizer with **Communities for a Better Environment**. She said the air in some homes contained chemical levels at or above the maximum guidelines set by the **US Environmental Protection Agency**. "But a guideline doesn't mean it's enforced or that companies are following them," said Tovar. "There's very weak enforcement that's why we exist."

Communities for a Better Environment, which collected the study's air samples, held several panels to explain test results to residents. Researchers had expected to find higher levels of outdoor contaminants inside Richmond homes because that city is known for its geographic proximity to a port, rail yard, refinery, and chemical plants. But they were surprised to find that the levels of indoor contaminants from consumer products were similar in urban Richmond and coastal, semi-rural and middle- to upper-middle-class Bolinas.

"In Richmond, people were afraid their community would be found to be 'toxic,'" Tovar said. "But in Bolinas it was very different. People there thought we wouldn't find anything at all, but actually we did pesticides, chemicals in flooring, DDT, household chemicals. There's a lot of pollution we are exposed to on the household level that we aren't aware of. In that community we surprised people."

"Pretty much everyone is exposed to these household chemicals," Tovar said. "It doesn't matter where you live or what your income levels are. The outside pollutants are a different story."

Richmond homes also contained high levels of Vanadium and Nickel — among the highest in the state — while Bolinas had some of the state's lowest levels. Those chemicals cause heart and respiratory disorders and likely come from the refinery, the shipping industry, and traffic.

"Overall we found a lot of outdoor pollution is concentrating in people's homes because there's no air circulation," Tovar said. "So think about the dust in your homes — a carpet versus a wood flooring. The carpet holds a lot of that stuff in; most pollutants is dust. And inside the home there is no wind, no water, and fewer microbes to break chemicals down."



Air in Richmond homes contains high levels of Vanadium and Nickel



Air in Bolinas homes contained the same level of residential contaminants as in Richmond

IT'S HARD TO GIVE ADVICE ABOUT WHAT NOT TO BUY WHEN MANY CONSUMER PRODUCTS DON'T BOTHER LABELING THE CHEMICALS THEY CONTAIN.

The study — by researchers at the **Silent Spring Institute**, UC Berkeley and Brown University — is part of a larger project that aims to measure environmental toxins in homes nationwide. Following collection of the air samples in 2006, they were then analyzed over the following years. The most recent paper was published online in August in the journal ***Environmental Science & Technology***. It looked at outdoor and indoor pollutants — particularly endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), or chemicals that mimic hormones leading to a slew of health problems.

"With EDCs, the main concern is exposure during development," said **Ruthann Rudel**, director of research at the Silent Spring Institute and one of the paper's authors. "While tissues are forming, the disruptors make permanent changes to the tissue. Exposure in utero from an environmental source can have an effect on male and female development and possibly affect the development of the breasts, increasing vulnerability to cancer."

Many researchers now believe EDCs are at least partly responsible for precocious puberty, or the development of breasts and pubic hair before the age of eight in young girls. A study led by researchers at the University of Florida found female Yaqui Indians in north western Mexico grew large breasts with little mammary tissue as a result of pesticide exposure in utero. They also were unable to produce breast milk for their babies.

The recent study, which tested forty homes in Richmond and ten in Bolinas, was the second of its kind by the Silent Spring Institute. The first looked at 120 homes in Cape Cod. "The first thing we saw in the California data — there were similarities to Cape Cod but there was one very significant difference, and that was the flame retardants," said Rudel.

Because of a law passed in the mid 1970s furniture and other products in California must be sufficiently fire-proof to withstand twelve seconds of exposure in an open flame before igniting. Californians have twice the level of PBDE flame retardants in their blood compared to the national average and many times more than Europeans. PBDEs have been shown to disrupt developing reproductive and nervous systems, so they're especially problematic for pregnant women and children.

Another environmental toxin common in homes built in the 1950s and 60s came from a popular wood floor finish used during those years. The finish contained PCBs, which are known to affect the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems and cause cancer in animals.

It's hard to give advice about what not to buy when many consumer products don't bother labeling the chemicals they contain. And even if they did consumers would have to be extremely savvy to navigate their way through polysyllabic technical names. Which is why Tovar advocates for stricter governmental regulations that limit the chemicals seeping into our homes in the first place.

"These are chemicals that are banned in other countries, or that aren't allowed to be used in households," she said. "And in this country these things are being tested on us."

In the meantime, the Silent Spring Institute recommends that concerned consumers avoid chemicals with strong fragrances, products with grease-proof coatings (increasingly common in clothing and baby products) clothes and fabrics that are anti-mildew or anti bacterial, wall-to-wall carpeting, paints and stains that aren't labeled "low VOC" (volatile organic compounds) air fresheners and pesticides. Whenever possible, use natural, unscented products and fibers. For a full list of suggestions, visit SilentSpring.org. ●

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HELLO ... WANNA GIVE TO A GOOD CAUSE?

Idealistic nonprofits hire a for-profit company to solicit donations. But the conditions canvassers work under are far from ideal.

By Matthew Green

Angela Badami just wanted to make a difference. After living abroad the 25-year-old returned to the United States in the summer of 2006 amidst a worsening war in Iraq, and the possibility that Democrats might take back both Houses from Republicans. Though she had no organizing background, she applied for and was hired as an assistant canvassing director for **MoveOn.org**, the national progressive group that advocates for things like affordable health care and a living wage. But as Badami would soon discover, her new job would deny her the very sense of dealing that she was canvassing for.

Helping to manage the San Francisco canvassing office for MoveOn, Badami worked seven days a week, from 7:30 in the morning to 11 at night. For each 105-hour week clocked, she took home roughly $575. That amounted to a little more than $5.50 an hour, about half California's minimum wage.

So in 2007 this San Francisco resident and her co-workers used their former employer for refusing to pay overtime wages or allow lunch breaks. "There was this big moment when I realized this was not right," Badami, now 29, recalled. "I wasn't being treated properly and couldn't afford health care, but meanwhile I'm calling people saying vote for so and so for senate because they support health care reform."

Actually, the problem wasn't with MoveOn. Despite the logo on her T-shirt and the polished rap that slid off her tongue, Badami was not employed by the national nonprofit. Instead, she was hired and paid by **Grassroots Campaigns, Inc.**, a fairly inconspicuous for-profit firm with a very conspicuous workforce.

Since 2004, the Boston-based firm has provided fund-raising services and personnel to more than twenty well-known national organizations that fight for progressive or humanitarian causes and political candidates to add-ons to MoveOn, its clients have included such liberal torchbearers as the **ACLU**, **Save the Children**, **Amnesty International**, **Planned Parenthood**, the **Sierra Club** — even the **ASPCA**. Employees are sometimes clothed overnight from one cause to another, saving the children one day and the redwoods the next.

If you've ever been approached on the street by an **Oxfam** representative seeking funds to end poverty in Africa, or had a guy from the **Democratic National Convention** knocking at your door at dinnertime crusading to keep Washington under Democratic control, chances are they were hired, trained, and paid by Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. This for-profit canvass outsourcing firm grosses untold millions from its fund-raising commissions, and has recruiting offices in more than twenty cities nationwide. Each year, Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. employs armies of eager young adults to canvass on the streets as Badami's case, manage those canvassers.

Though most people don't know it, the canvassers hired by Grassroots Campaigns Inc. work under conditions that would likely make the organizations they're championing cringe. Workers face tight fund-raising quotas and notoriously high turnover rates, the average canvasser lasts less than a month. But the constant pool of new applicants often churned out by liberal academic institutions, coupled with the lean economy, has allowed Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. to continue to work its young employees very hard seemingly without much repercussion. In fact, they're currently hiring.

The progressive campaign outsourcing concept is loosely linked to **Ralph Nader**, who as an attorney and consumer advocate helped start a national network of largely campus-based statewide advocacy organizations called the **Public Interest Research Groups**. By the early-1980s, the state groups incorporated into **U.S. PIRG**, an influential national organization that is in need of a concerted fund-raising engine started the **Fund for Public Interest Research** in 1982.

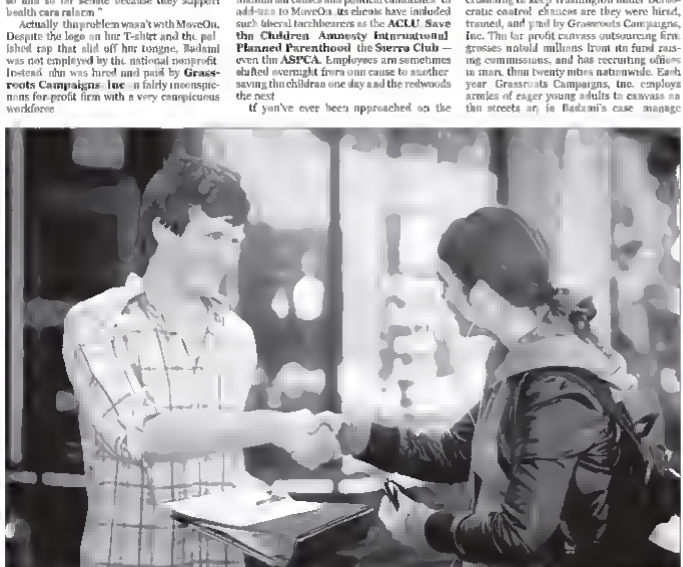
"The Fund" as it became known, hired canvassers to raise money for its campaigns, a wholly unique fund raising approach that proved immensely successful. As The Fund expanded, it began outsourcing its canvassing to other nonprofit clients, enlisting and dispatching thousands of canvassers around the country to knock on doors and work the streets.

Yet as it grew, so too did a litany of employee complaints, allegations of labor violations and eventually a series of class-action lawsuits. In recent years, a multitude of blogs by ex-employees has sprouted across the web, portraying wretched work experiences of near-Dickensian scope.

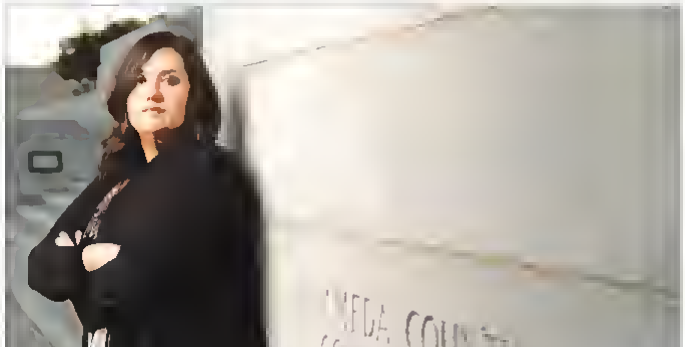
Columbia University Sociology Professor **Dana Fisher** describes The Fund in depth in her suggestively titled book ***Activism, Inc. How the Outsourcing of Grassroots Campaigns Is Strangling Progressive Politics in America***, published in 2006. A former canvasser herself, she notes the efficiency of this outsourcing model, but also the heavy toll on those in the trenches, many of who start out as impassioned, potential leaders in the movement and become quickly disillusioned and alienated. The modern Republican political organizing approach, she argues, has been far more effective in creating stronger, lasting relationships with both its employees and political base.

As The Fund's image began to tarnish, its founder and Advisory Board Chairman **Douglas Phelps**, along with several other board members, founded Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. in late 2003, one year before a hotly contested presidential election. By that spring, the for-profit enterprise had opened campaign offices around the country, and by mid-summer they'd hired several thousand canvassers to aggressively fund-raise for the DNC.

While The Fund still exists, it's assumed a lower profile. Grassroots Campaigns, Inc., however, remains closely linked to The Fund — its attorney in the Badami case also defended The Fund — and now handles many former clients. Phelps is still chairman of The Fund's board as well as president at Grass-



Nate Atkinson canvasses for Peace Action West at Shattuck Avenue and Center Street in downtown Berkeley. Stephen Dewanjee



Angela Badami and her co-workers sued the associates Campaigns, Inc. for refusing to pay overtime or allow lunch breaks

Stephen Lewinstein

roots Campaigns, Inc

These days some organizations run their own canvassing operations. Several years ago Greenpeace broke ties with The Fund and now does its own fund raising. But for many whose budgets rely as much on canvassing dollars as foundation grants, it's simply become more cost effective to outsource the burdensome task to an already well-oiled machine.

Angela Badami was offered $24,000 a year for the position as an assistant canvassing director for MoveOn's get-out-the-vote campaign. It was modest by most standards, but it came with the possibility of health benefits. And, besides, it was an opportunity to work on the ground for a cause she firmly believed in and to get a foot in the door in the world of progressive political organizing.

"I really wanted to jump into the political scene on a more grassroots level," said Badami who now works as a special education teacher at an Oakland middle school. She was offered the job in August, but the MoveOn campaign she'd been hired for didn't actually start until mid-September. So for the first month Badami served as "Assistant Director of Canvassing" for the Democratic National Convention, which essentially meant standing in the middle of busy downtown San Francisco sidewalks canvassing for roughly thirteen hours a day, six days a week. Badami says that during the hiring process, it wasn't made clear that she'd be doing so much street work, especially given her supposed managerial status.

Long hours aside, her initial impression with the work was less than enthusiastic. "They have their rap that they want you to memorize for everything, in all instances," she remembered. "I thought that was really stifling."

But she stuck with it. In September Badami and eight of her co-workers opened up a MoveOn campaign office in downtown San Francisco. Her new title was "Volunteer Coordinator" and her task was calling MoveOn's membership to recruit volunteers to come into the office and call voters in swing states. Although the nature of the work was closer to the description of what she had initially signed on for the intensity increased as did the hours: for those nearly two months leading up to the election she was working more than fifteen hours a day without a single day off. According to Badami, Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. a management all but prohibited her and her staff from taking any time off during those two months and strongly discouraged them using their federally mandated thirty-minute lunch and dinner breaks.

"Everyone was feeling worn out and frustrated," she said. "There was very little autonomy."

Any complaints made to management about the hours or the pay were met with well-practiced shaming speeches, she said. "It always kind of turned into a guilt trip," she recalled. "They'd tell us: 'It's for the cause.' As long as the cause is being reached it doesn't matter if you can feel yourself or not. It claims to be progressive but not to its own employees."

Badami also aired her grievances to **Wes Jones** Grassroots Campaigns, Inc.'s national canvassing director, who she says, was generally unresponsive. "He said, 'Those are sacrifices we all make,' but didn't say anything to the effect of 'I understand your concerns. I was not happy afterward."

Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. initially declined to comment for this story, but after multiple interview requests Jones included the following statement in an e-mail: "I am confident that we clearly communicate the nature of the work up front and invest a lot in our staff's training and success," he wrote. "So, while canvassing is a tough job and not for everyone, it's a good first step into campaign work for hundreds of people every year."

Employee morale deteriorated further when Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. management made an aggressive push for staff to buy into the company's health plan, which says Badami was $400 a month or roughly 20 percent of her entire salary. At this point she was already relying on ancillary funds from her parents to make rent and feed herself. In the end, almost no one went for it. "It seems like they weren't understanding why we couldn't be part of their health care plan," she said.

The final blow came on payday. Badami and her co-workers noticed that, according to the notation on their checks they were being compensated for working forty hour week at $11 an hour and had been classified as exempt from overtime wages. "When we looked at that we said 'Okay, something's not right here. We worked more than that and we're not hourly.' Then were trying to avoid paying us overtime," she said. "We looked at the law and realized we were not getting the wages that we were legally required to get."

Under California law salaried non commission employees can't be refused overtime compensation unless they are paid at least double the minimum wage for no less than





Alicia Cleary canvasses for Doing Good on behalf of Children International near The Cheese Board in Berkeley

forty hours a week, which in 2006 would have been more than $28,000 a year. Grassroots Campaigns Inc. had already been sued a year before by a group of students in Oregon who had canvassed on behalf of the DNC during the 2004 presidential election and claimed they had been paid the much lower federal, not state, minimum wage.

"Essentially, a lot of companies assume it's up to them who they pay set salaries or wages to," said **Robert Nelson**, an employment attorney who represented Badami and her co-workers. "Were laws broken? Unequivocally yes."

It appeared as though no one at Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. stopped to check whether California had different rules than what they were playing by in all the other states. Nelson added. In running a business, he says, they were less than savvy.

The week following the election Badami helped close down the office promptly quit, and met with her San Francisco co-workers on improving labor conditions for future Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. canvass managers. The main objectives were simple: hire pay meal breaks, affordable health care, and a human resources position in the national office to handle employee concerns. Going the legal route was not the group's initial intention, says Badami. But it became evident that Grassroots Campaigns Inc. wasn't going to budge, and so six months after her resignation Badami and four co-workers hired Nelson, who filed their suit with the US District Court, Northern California — the same courthouse whose chief judge recently invalidated **Proposition 8**, California's gay marriage ban.

Nelson says that GCI initially denied all his clients' claims and at one point tried to resolve the situation by issuing checks for the difference of what the employees were making and what they needed to make to be exempt, which he notes "you can't really do." He says they also encouraged employees to sign declarations essentially stating that any overtime work had been done of their own volition.

The whole scenario was "just so hypocritical," Nelson said. "If other canvassing operations are like GCI, they should all be shut down."

The case, **Angela Badami, et al. v Grassroots Campaigns, Inc.** was a class-action suit on behalf of current and former employees of the company. It resulted less than five months later in a $600,000 out-of-court settlement. The funds were distributed among the roughly 125 current and former canvass managers in California that had been denied overtime wages. According to Nelson, an additional 1,000 GCI staff received a small lump sum payment for a mandatory unpaid training day they'd participated in. For all her efforts, Badami got $3,000 — the equivalent of about two months of what she made working for Grassroots Campaigns Inc. "It was good to have some compensation," she said, "even though it wasn't as much as we were really owed."

Despite repeated attempts, Grassroots Campaigns Inc. declined to comment directly on the suit as did **Walter Sinbert** the attorney who defended them in court. Wes Jones, the group's canvassing director wrote in an e-mail: "GCI is in compliance with the laws affecting our employees. There was a claim in the past and it was resolved."

While GCI is undoubtedly the major employer of canvassers, other progressive organizations also rely on young people to solicit donations for them. And the conditions they work under are similarly challenging. Chances are, you've run into one of them recently.

On a damp wintry afternoon in Berkeley, a few months following the inauguration of President **Barack Obama**, **William White** stood outside of **The Cheese Board** in North Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto, armed with little more than a stickered clipboard. It was lunchtime and amid a flurry of jazz guitar and the pungent aroma of pizza, customers shimied grease-stained paper bags and walked briskly in his direction. Very few stopped.

"Take a moment for peace today," called out the 28-year-old Hawaii native clad in black jeans and sporting a shaggy haircut, dark side-

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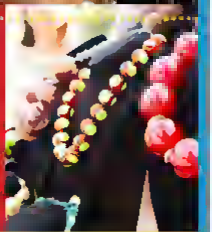
will incorporate our traditional wrap-up of the year in recordings, books, DVDs, and video games. We'll also include our annual guide to snow sports featuring a look at what's new at the Tahoe resorts, and much more. And of course, we'll focus on gift-giving, with gift ideas and how-to suggestions. Finally, we'll set you up for the holiday season, with our traditional holiday calendar.



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burns, and is actually chin.

"Sorry, not right now."

"Hi. Take a moment…"

"Already a member."

"Have a minute for me now?"

"Can't have time."

Then the canvassing director for local activist group **Peace Action West**, White had made a short career of hitting up strangers for cash in the name of progressive causes. He cut his teeth on New York's chilling downtown streets, where he spent several years canvassing for Grassroots Campaigns Inc. "In many ways this is a dream job," White had asserted, earlier in the day, in the comfort of his organization's office. "I get paid to fight for peace."

But the work can also be demoralizing. White has literally faced thousands of rejections in his roughly long years as a canvasser and he makes just enough cash to feed himself. Several hours later, after being rebuffed at least ten times in almost as many minutes, White admitted that the work isn't for everyone. "People doing it as a job don't stick around too long," he said. "You're going to want to work for it cuz pages you can believe in."

He insists that the work he is doing on the streets isn't just about getting money. It is the most direct way to build a grassroots peace movement. Every donor becomes a member of Peace Action West which advocates for a more progressive US foreign policy, and anyone regardless of contribution can write letters and sign petitions that White has tucked in his cupboard.

Still the pay is miserable and the hours are long — typically four-hour street shifts with bathroom breaks only if some business owner is kind enough to allow access. Most canvassers make some minimal base rate that hovers around state minimum wage, plus a commission on whatever contributions they can harvest. Unlike some of the other groups, PAW offers health care to full- and part time workers, but retention rates are still incredibly low: the average worker stays for only a few months, says White, who has had to perennially hire and train new staff. Like Grassroots Campaigns, Inc., Peace Action West aggressively recruits new hires, with near daily postings on **Craigslist** and frequent back page newspaper ads offering "community organizing" opportunities for a weekly wage of between $380 and $600.

As a manager, White earned a salaried income that wasn't commission based. But even that wasn't enough to keep him canvassing for long. After eighteen months working in Peace Action West, White quit in September 2009. He now works for a natural foods shipping company.

"I needed to take a step back from working in politics," said White, now 32, recently. "It's pretty stressful. It's tough work, especially when working for something as abstract as peace. It can be really taxing, physically and mentally."

Following the suit Badami and her coworkers filed against Grassroots Campaigns Inc. the firm insists it has changed its ways. The company has hired a full-time human resources manager and promised to pay overtime wages, allow for meal breaks and stop the unpaid training days. Nelson's clients who remained in California report that they are now receiving the appropriate state minimum wage.

But it's unclear how much conditions have really improved for Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. canvassers. According to the job description currently posted on its web site, canvass directors and assistant directors still receive $24,000 a year, and there is no mention of overtime. In an online description it says an assistant director's typical day starts at 9 a.m. and is jam-packed. The only mention of lunch is at 3 p.m., and only within the context of another activity, not as a designated break unto itself. At 11 p.m. the day ends: "Leave office; go hang out with staff and grab a bite to eat."

Not so surprisingly, the company was sued again in 2008, this time for having three employees from its Chicago office who attempted to form a union. The employees initially sought legal aid from the ACLU but as a client of Grassroots Campaigns Inc. the civil liberties group had to decline, because of conflict of interest. Ultimately, the **National Labor Relations Board** took the case and Grassroots Campaigns Inc. settled paying almost $18,000 in the workers in back wages.

"I never understood why more people weren't interested in this," said attorney Nelson, who is also a former journalist. "They're a company that bills itself as an extension of the DNC fighting for workers rights and liberal causes. Meanwhile, they're committing the most egregious and most blatant overtime and minimum-wage violations I've seen before I handled this case and since I handled this case."

> "They're committing the most egregious and most blatant overtime and minimum-wage violations I've seen …" said attorney Robert Nelson

Nelson says there was a certain genius in the way Grassroots Campaigns Inc. manipulated its young employees. And the reason why he thinks the issue doesn't get much attention is because the group of people that primarily get taken advantage are rich kids. A lot of them buy into the culture and drink the Kool Aid."

The model says Badami directly excludes lower-income workers who simply can't afford to make that bitte. "It shuts out the very people we should be inviting into the progressive environment," she said. "Anyone who can't have daddy helped out by their parents with money saved up can't do this job. How can we really be a movement if only privileged folks have the opportunity to be part of it?"

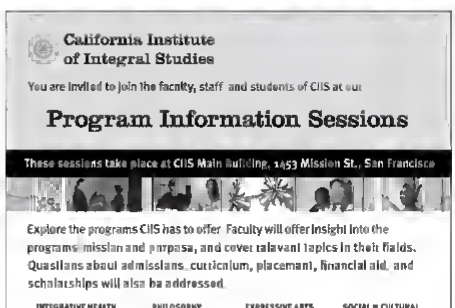
Today Badami views that she'll never work in electoral politics again. "It really makes me think about how progressives organize themselves," she said. "Republicans make sure their young workers are hooked up with jobs and money, whereas we bleeding-heart liberals believe we have to be poor and miserable to affect change. Now every time I see a canvasser I say sorry." ●

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THE ART OF CANVASSING

They've got a pitch, and a strategy that would make a football coach proud

By Matthew Green

Canvasser **William White** stands in the middle of the sidewalk on Shattuck Avenue just to the south of **The Cheese Board** in North Berkeley. About twenty feet away, on the other side of the restaurant's entrance, White's partner **Stella Mitchell** faces him, catching the southbound traffic. She's strategically placed to catch the heart of the foot traffic and seems to be having slightly better luck than her supervisor.

"Peace today?" White calls out to an approaching pedestrian.

"I'm all for peace," says the man brushing by.

"Then take a moment and hear what I have to say."

Nothing.

The call-and-rejection play continues with the next ten people who sheepishly slink by heads bowed, mumbling the standard excuses. But then White manages to reel in his first catch of the day.

He makes eye contact with a young woman, baby strapped to her chest and begins his well polished spiel: a concise statement devoid of "ums" or pauses and replete with attention grabbers like "nuclear warheads" and "a billion dollars." The woman listens attentively as I did but when the donation pitch comes, she grows hesitant and says she'd rather donate online. White briefly bargains, offering her several rapidly cascading math hashtag options starting with a dollar a day, and gearing down to a one-time twenty-buck deal. But the limits already gone slack, and a moment later she's gone.

White and Mitchell are among the reluctant army of young, progressively minded, low-wage street soldiers who emerge ubiquitously at peak moments in bustling thoroughfares throughout the Bay Area. They appear with clipboards or binders, campaign materials and credit card forms in hand, stump speeches polished and rehearsed. The manifold groups — **Peace Action West**, **Save the Children** the **Democratic National Committee**, **Environment California**, **Greenpeace** to name a few — may have disparate missions but to many a passerby they're one in the same: out for cash and of ten not all that approved.

Despite the seemingly Sisyphean task of getting strangers on the street to hand over cash, it's apparently effective enough that a lot of organizations continue to rely on it for an ample percentage of their fund raising endeavors. According to White, the major Bay Area canvassing organizations generally avoid direct competition through agreed-upon time slots and a coordinated online street reservation system that allows each group exclusive access to choice neighborhoods like North Berkeley, downtown Berkeley and San Francisco's Castro and Financial districts. (Despite the heavy foot traffic, Lake Merritt is a wash, says White.)

The canvassing operation of White's employer Peace Action West, used to be door-to-door, but recently transitioned exclusively to the streets as a more efficient way to hit small staff at roughly, as it reach the greatest number of people. Almost all its $2.2 million budget comes from individual contributions and 12 percent of that revenue is generated on the sidewalk, according to PAW's Communications Director **Reva Patwardhan**. "The rest comes from our existing membership and my educated guess is that about 95 percent of them are renewing members who give through our phone, Internet and mail programs originally became members through some form of canvassing," she said.

There is an art to canvassing. To outsiders, it can look like a constant flow of rejection, a form of longstreet theater. The typical pedestrian — even if he or she supports the cause at hand — just doesn't want to be bothered. Yet in the left leaning areas all this most iconic liberal strongholds, highly entertaining splashes of psychology can weave their way into painfully awkward interactions between skilled canvassers and unsuspecting pedestrians. The former often knows when to use guilt. The latter often knows when to juggle the guilt. Try as we might, it is sometimes flat out difficult to just say "no" and walk away when confronted with a question like "Do you want to help feed starving children?"

Along those lines the longer a canvasser can keep a passerby captive, the harder it often becomes for her to walk away without at least a token contribution. Which is why any seasoned canvasser knows the necessity of an initial high impact greeting, quickly followed by the smooth succinct zap that sets the hook. Eye contact is crucial, says White, as is high energy and a brimming level of confidence. This is not a job for the timid or easily discouraged. A self assured canvasser can have that magnetic quality that makes escape difficult. Even in the crappiest days, White refuses to go home empty-handed.

"You gotta be really quick," White said. The majority of pedestrians don't slow their pace at all, and of the handful who do, few are likely to stick around longer than about ten seconds. "People on the street are always in a rush and want you to get to the point."

Street donations are generally small, but the possibility of a big one is always there. White once received $500 in one fell swoop and heard of a DNC canvasser who, prior to the 2008 election, got a client $24 000 check — the maximum contribution allowed by law. It's the stuff of legend.

"You really never know who's going to be that one," White said. And when that proverbial sweet kiss finally comes around, he said, "it's an amazing feeling. … It really energizes you. It makes you more effective for the next person."

There are also the minor props, namely the informational clipboard. Handing it to someone can be quite effective, says White. "It literally puts the ball in your court." Some canvassers take it to an aggressive luck, and make it hard for people to return the clipboard. One North Berkeley resident described an interaction with a Save the Children canvasser who knocked on the front door and shoved a clipboard in his hands. The man declined to contribute and tried handing back the materials. "I have to go" he said, "I have a little child upstairs." to which the canvasser beseeched "But what about all the other children?"

Sometimes, canvassers resort to desperation. White cut his teeth on New York's bustling downtown streets, where he spent several years canvassing for the for-profit lefty fund raising behemoth Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. At the end of a miserable day, he'd sometimes fall down on his knees before a businessman and, in the most pathetic tone he could muster screech "Please!" "At least it'd get some laughs out of folks," he recalled, grinning.

In New York, White also learned various maneuvers to handle the flood of pedestrians at rush hour — with the goal of hitting up the maximum number possible. His arrangement outside The Cheese Board, in which he and Mitchell face each other at a distance to catch people from both directions, is the most simplistic of the arsenal of formations that would likely get the admiration of a foot ball coach.

Of course, the volumes of people in New York (and sometimes San Francisco) call for a bigger canvassing team. If there are three people, forming a triangle position on the street is effective in funneling the traffic and catching the periphery. With four, the box — or even parallelogram — is effective in catching the corners and slowing the middle stream. And when faced with the highest volume, White says he's implemented the five-point box, with someone stationed in the middle.

As important as time management is the ability to read body language (if someone starts to back away, the deal is off) and being able to recognize if an interaction is going nowhere, and when to abort the mission. Far worse than getting brushed off, White notes, is finding yourself in a prolonged conversation with someone who clearly has no intention of giving money. You've just there to argue, or is interested in the issues but plum broke. In a town of strong political stances — and stronger eccentricities — this can be a challenge to navigate a fact illustrated during several instances throughout the afternoon.

While some of the shills from the previous for-profit profession have surprisingly transferred over White insists that canvassers are not salespeople however this that line may seem. "A lot more passion and emotion is involved in canvassing," he said. It takes more skill and thought, he adds. "We have to constantly reinvent ourselves. The political climate changes day to day. The cool thing about street canvassing is that there really are people walking around trying to figure out how to get involved. It's the catalyst. What we do on the street is give people opportunity to engage in those issues. We politicize people on a day to day basis."

It's almost the end of lunchtime at The Cheese Board, and the crowd is thinning. Mitchell has had a few modest triumphs, but White's still empty-handed. He looks restless but there is still resolve in his stance and a heightened level of determinedness in his solicitations.

Afterwards, when asked if he was able to follow through on his self imposed mandate of not leaving empty handed, he says he was — a small sum from a woman accused in the final moments of his shift. It was a rough day, he admits, but the token gift is at least enough to get him out there again tomorrow. ●

To meet the story type: eastbyt.pt/artofcanvassing

Editor@EastBayExpress.com



Elliot Curtis and Jesse Meeker

CULTURE SPY

THE SNUGGIE GOES DUMBIE

Local rap video wows the infomercial blankie company

By Rachel Swan

Twenty five-year old **Jesse Meeker** is pretty attuned to pop culture but until about two months ago, he'd never heard of a **Snuggie**. He had apparently missed that sprite of late-night infomercials that began with a woman lying in her comfy, attempting to swaddle herself in blankets. "They sit p and sHdn Whnn you want to reach for something, your hands are trapped inside!" He'd apparently never seen an **OK Cupid** profile that listed "Snuggie" under "Object I could not live without" or "the most private thing I'm willing to admit about myself." When Meeker heard that Snuggie was holding a contest to see who could make the best three minute advertisement, lights lit at giant sleeved blankets, he was intrigued.

"I Googled Snuggie and found out it was this pop icon," he said.

Meeker got wind of the contest while working at a web based marketing firm in San Francisco. "They were like, 'We can't enter because we're a legit fancy company,'" he said. "But I just thought, 'I'm a Meeker. I need to enter.'" Meeker tweeted, "The Snuggie blanket commercials had already generated dozens of spin-offs on YouTube. The "What the Fu*K Blanket" ("The Blanket that will ruin your sex life!"); The "Snugger" (which covers your entire body, and your hands); The "Snuggest" (which covers your entire body and everything within a ten foot radius); The "Snuggernaut" ("200 ft. of luxurious fleece that captures 10 to 14 people"); The "Mega Snuggernaut" (covers your entire house); The "Blanket" ("A Snuggie without holes"); The Snuggie Cult" ("Cults keep you warm!"); and even the "What the Fu*K Blanket Dead Animal edition." There were two ways for Snuggie to respond. Either ignore the spoofs, or embrace them.

Snuggie went the latter route, said **Linda Holz**, director of marketing for **Allstar Products Group**, which makes the Snuggie blanket line. "The impetus for the **Snuggie Choice Film Awards** was to celebrate the fans and pay homage to the thousands of Snuggie-inspired videos on the Internet," Holz wrote in a recent e-mail interview.

Music was not a requirement, but the best video-makers opted to use it anyway. In fact, the top two contestants both used hip hop. **Dorothy Benson** of Leesburg, Virginia, snagged the $5,000 first place prize with her video "Snuggy Rap Kids," which featured a pre-teen and a toddler rapping about sleeveless blankies. Meeker took second place with "Teach You How to Snuggie," another blankie rap video inspired by the popular **Oh Snap District** hit "Teach Me How to Dougie."

By the time Meeker entered the contest, he already had a fairly substantial résumé. He'd shot and directed music videos for an ambient psychedelic band called **Human Mirror** and for Richmond rapper **Akil Fadil** — who asked for several gratuitous "bling shots" and a series of billboards with his image pasted inside. He also crafted a "You on Prop 8" odvertisement, which touts marijuana as a cure for everything from back aches to depression to boredom. A part time pizza chef, Meeker devotes most of his time to running his own production company, **Shiny House Video**.

The concept for "Teach Yim How to Snuggie" was simple. Meeker got together with producer **Lukas Noah** and engineer **Elliot Curtis** at their West Oakland recording studio — a dark, squint windowless building that they call "**The Rec Center**." Noah and Meeker wrote the rap and conscripted a local emcee **Socialoni** to deliver it. Then all they needed was a dancer. And what better place to find one than **Craigslist**? Three days before their video shoot, the guys posted a classified ad. "Seeking sexy female dancers for funky music video." The ad called for a hot, seductive amateur model who would be willing to trade her feminine wiles for "YouTube fame" rather than paper returns. They got three replies, but only one — **Sasha Selvin** — showed up on the day of the video shoot. Luckily, she was a perfect fit, Meeker said. And she had the right accoutrements: spike-heeled boots, black negligee, slinky brown Snuggie.

As such, their video is brilliant. It begins with Socialoni shouting frustratedly into his cell phone: "Man, Jerome, man, where is my *Snuggie* man? I'm just not feelin it man. You know what I mean. I'm trying to lay this track down now. It's just —" He sighed. "I can't do it man. I need to feel warm and *fuzzy* right now." Noah cuts in the music. A slow burps beat that follows the same bass pattern as **Michael Jackson**'s "Bad." Socialoni slips into a leopard print Snuggie and instantly transforms into a rap video titan. *Teach you how to Snuggie, yeah, teach you how to Snuggie* he says, floating across an animated green screen with the Snuggie logo inscribed in the background. *Teach me how to Snuggie yeah, teach me how to Snuggie!* Noah responds, with a look of wide-eyed, bewildered glee. Selvin appears in an ornithian slipping in and out of her fleece Snuggie. She's perhaps the first Internet video star to recast a Snuggie as something that would help you get laid.

The whole process took just a few hours, then Meeker pulled an all-nighter to add all the animation. After that, they submitted the video and a couple weeks later were informed that they'd been chosen as one of six finalists by a panel of judges from Snuggie. All six videos were posted on the web site SnuggieFan Club.com, where anyone could vote on the video of her choice. Meeker launched a huge Facebook campaign to promote "Teach Me How to Snuggie." "It was pretty taxing on my social networking life," he admitted.

Once the votes were tallied, Meeker got a call from Snuggie. Last week the company flew him to Las Vegas from Santa Ana for the awards ceremony. They got $2,500, which went right back into the Rec Center coffers. They bought new lights and some audio equipment. They're also trying to pimp another video for yet another product promotion contest they have sponsored by **Blue Angel Vodka**. Meeker thinks this one might be harder to win. He and Noah shot a 44 second flick, in which an attractive San Francisco bartender (**Christine Imfeld**) pours Blue Angel martinis into a couple of slobbering dogs (**Vito** and **Brazil**). "It wasn't received as well," Meeker said. "The Snuggie was so goofy, and over-the-top."

A couple days ago, Meeker received in the last gift from Snuggie: twenty-three big, amorphous sleeved blankies that won't trap his hands inside. They'll make good Christmas gifts, he assured. And now that he knows what a Snuggie is, he's developed a bit of brand loyalty. "I slept in mine last night." ●

To share this story, type: ohchy.pr/snuggie

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

HECHO EN CALIFAS FESTIVAL

FRI. NOV. 5 • 8PM
BELOVED"
A REQUIEM FOR OUR DEAD

SAT. NOV. 6 • 7:30PM
BOCAS RADIOACTIVAS
LOS RAKAS • BOCA FLOJA
DOBLE FILO • PAUL FLORES

NOV. 10, 11, & 12 • 8PM
VICTOR IN SHADOW
DIR. BY KINAN & LAKIN VALDEZ

SAT. NOV. 13 • 9PM
QUEENDOM
HIP HOP BENEFIT FOR GIRLS INC.

SUN. NOV. 14 • 8PM
MUJERES EN LA RESISTENCIA
LIZA GARZA • TRUBLOO PACHULLI • YOSIMAR REYES

NOV. 14 • 2PM • 6PM
BATEY BORICUA
PUERTO RICAN MUSIC JAM
BOMBA, PLENA Y MÁS!

NOV.14 • 3:30PM • 5:30PM
REBELATE!
RADICAL POSTER MAKING WITH DIGNIDAD REBELDE

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EAST BAY EXPRESS







EVENTS&ATTRACTIONS


21 Grand

Grand Gesture

The experimental arts space struggles to survive with a series of fund-raisers.

When **21 Grand** (416 25th St., Oakland) opened on Grand Avenue in 2006, it quickly became known as one of the few venues in the East Bay that catered to the avant-garde and experimental arts scene. It was one of the original members of the loose collective of galleries that would ultimately found **Oakland Art Murmur** and its live-shows-dress experimental music fans who might otherwise skip the East Bay on their forays. But the building, like interdisciplinary arts spaces nowadays, 21 Grand's third home doesn't have a cabaret permit — which is required if any venue that serves alcohol is open to the public and permits dancing. Manager **Darren Jenkins** said that because 21 Grand didn't serve alcohol at its shows he thought was in the clear.

Nonetheless, about two months ago a police officer served him a cease-and-desist letter. Jenkins was told that he couldn't keep holding shows without getting a cabaret license, which would require extensive fire and building code renovations, which Jenkins estimates will cost at least $120,000. For a venue that typically charges between $5 and $10 per ticket and that more or less breaks even each month that figure is, as Jenkins put it, "beyond crippling."

So Jenkins, who doesn't make a salary, has been forced to find a way to pay the bills without going into personal debt — and without holding the live shows that generated the bulk of his revenue. A few weeks ago he raised some money with an "emergency rummage sale." On Saturday, Nov. 6 he, along with **Benefi Record Sale** (10 a.m.–5 p.m., $2).

In addition to being a fund-raiser, the sale is a means of continuing to foster the community, built around 21 Grand, "That's our primary responsibility," Jenkins said. "To cater to artists of all kinds interested in creating experimental work." Chen and Jenkins have rounded up fifteen or so collectors and DJs with a taste for experimental avant garde, punk, and noise. Basically, Chen said, "people who have been hoarding a lot of weird stuff for years, stuff that really represents the aesthetic of 21 Grand." The two have also organized another benefit for the following day, Nov. 7: **SuperCollider for Beginners**, a workshop about the programming language taught by local experimentalist maestro **Chad McKinney** (2–9 p.m., $20).

Jenkins hopes the money he raises from entrance fees to these two events will put at least a small dent in the mounting pile of expenses he has no real way of paying, and allow him to raise enough money to see out the end of his lease in January, when he hopes to find another space. He said he's staying optimistic, but 21 Grand's future is definitely uncertain. "It's all very up in the air at this point," he said. "No matter what, I think it's going to be a struggle."

Preregistration recommended for the workshop: e-mail info@21Grand.org or call 510-444-7263.

— *Ellen Cushing*

To share this story, type: stuff.by.pt/21grandfundraiser

ATTRACTIONS

Day of the Dead Altar/Altar del Día de los Muertos Through Nov. 30; free (openers Public Library, Celia Chávez Branch, 3301 E. 12th St., Fruitvale, 510-535-5600 thelibrary.org.

Dinosaur Botanical at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach With dinosaur-themed bites, games, and more. In addition to Playland's standard offerings. Nov. 6-7 $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

Bears Gone A Fishin, Happily Ever After... Three-part public art project by Scott Deves. With a self-guided audio walking tour August 7 through November 14, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., a sale at Lake Merritt area vendors Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and an installation running Sept 10 thru Sept. Through Nov. 14, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Free. Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave, Rowers, 510-238-2175, OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks_LakeMerritt.asp.

Redwood Valley Rowers Redwood-natural scenic journey by stream train through the redwoods of Tilden Regional Park. Info, 510-548-8100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. $2; no ticket, or $ 9 kids, age $8. Tilden Regional Park, Entrance off Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley, 510-843-2137, EBParks.org/Parks/Tilden.

University of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere else — more than 12,000 varieties, in fact. Free docent tours Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m., open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. $2; gen. admission, or $ 9 kids, age $8. Tilden Regional Park, Entrance off Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley, 510-643-2755, BerkeleyBG.org/Parks/Tilden.

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Women's Art, the Bay Area Festival of Rowers With speeches and activities on subjects like climate change and evolution. Third Saturday of every month. Rally, University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley, 510-643-2755, BerkeleyBG.org/Parks/Berkeley.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

The EROS Show Art show and reception featuring erotic art, poetry, dancing, and performances by local artists, including Aztec Jacobson, Shauna Hanson, and Angela Meyers. Fri. Nov. 5, 9:00 p.m., donations requested. Art House Gallery @ Cultural Center, 2905 Rowers Ave, Berkeley, 510-473-3170.

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GLBT

Diamond Women's Rowers, Group All-lesbian and bi-curious women (including transgendered women) Redwood. Info, coming soon related to bisexuality are welcome. Info: gaywomensrowers.berkeley.edu. Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

Drum-Up Wednesdays A weekly gathering, open to transgender, gay, cross-dressers, and Californians, are welcome. Enjoy snacks, and a large "treasure" of clothing for the women in you. Dress up, make friends, take photos, and get fashion tips. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., $15-20 donation requested, JoanBlocklight.com. Nov 6, 45870 Warm Springs Blvd. #2 Fremont, 510-656-6711, JoanBlocklight.com.

Cant Buy Food Rowers Join the LGBT group for fun-oriented rowers and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the web site for weekly locations. Sundays, 10 a.m., free, CantBuyFoodRowers.org. Berkeley, phone, 261 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-6740, CLBerkeley.Ca.Us/Library/.

Express 24k Centennial group for gay 64, to queering rowing men in their twenties. Thursdays, 8:15 p.m., $6-$20 requested, donation, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Rowers, 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

HIV Positive Thursday Group Rowers-style not required. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., $10-$45 sliding scale. 510-548-8283 ext. 340, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley, 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

Lesbians of Color Peer Group Thursdays, 7-8 p.m., $5-$20 suggested donation, (510) 548-8283, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

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8am - 2:30pm
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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the Express for more information on East Bay art showings.

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday, November 5th

ALAMEDA
Frank Bette Center
1601 Paru St.

ALBANY
Gathering Tribes
1412 Solano Ave

BERKELEY
Berkeley Art Museum
2626 Bancroft Way

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St.

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave

Urbanity
1887 Solano Ave.

KENSINGTON
Nan Phelps Photography
398 Colusa Ave

OAKLAND
57th Street Gallery
5701 Telegraph Ave

21 Grand
416 25th St

Actual Café
6334 San Pablo Ave.

Awaken Café
414 14th St

Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Ave

Blank Space
6608 San Pablo Ave.

Bay Area Visual Arts Network
455 17th St.

Buzz Gallery
2318 Telegraph Ave

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave

Clausen House
650 Grand Ave

The Compound Gallery
1187 66th St

Creative Growth
355 24th St

The Crucible & Cathedral Gallery
1615 Broadway

Five Ten Studio
831 Broadway Ave

Forthrite Gallery
5852 San Pablo Ave.

Front Gallery
35 Grand Ave.

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on Grand Ave between Broadway and Valley

Haleh
462 23rd St.

Johanssen Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th St.

Kuhl Frames + Art
412 22nd St

The Layover
1517 Franklin St.

Levende East
827 Washington St.

Lireille
3980 Piedmont Ave

LeBel Gallery
1900 Campbell St.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway

Mercury 20
475 25th St.

The Moon
447 25th St.

Oakpolis
447 25th St.

PreArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Pro Arts @ Latham Square
1611 Telegraph Ave

RAW Gallery
1951 Telegraph Ave

Red Door Gallery
416 26th St.

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave

Rooz Café
1918 Park Blvd.

Rowan Morrison
338 40th St.

SLATE Contemporary
4770 Telegraph Ave.

Smokey's Tengle
4709 Telegraph Ave

Somar Bar and Lounge
1727 Telegraph Ave

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
1628 Webster St.

Studio Quercus
385 26th St

Swerm Studios & Gallery
560 2nd St.

The Swee(l)Art Drawing Gallery
6662 San Pablo Ave

Tech Liminal
268 14th St

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St.

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5840 College Ave

UrbanSpace Gallery
811 Washington St.

SAN LEANDRO
Anna Edwards Gallery
237 East 14th St.

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to Promotions@EastBayExpress.com to be included in the December directory

EAST BAY EXPRESS

Pacific Center org.

KUMTZ Weight Loss Challenge With personal coaching, a weekly 1-hour body analysis, small prizes for the top two, and a weekly nutrition class focusing on group size limitation portion control. Wednesday and more. Call 510-847-2695 to register. Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22 $30. Lake Merritt Branch administration/Church First Ave. and Grand, 1225 First Ave. Oakland.

KUMU Youth Group Drop-in group for LGBT group. Tuesdays, arts/crafts/writing/music. Thursdays: hot issues/game. Wednesday Fridays, queer movies/video games. Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.; Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Transgender Support Group An all-inclusive information group for crossdressers, transsexuals and other people with queries, doubts or issues. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. (925) 687-0080. Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County, 3014 Willow Pass Rd. Concord. 925-692-0080. RainbowCC.org.

Transgender Support Group Support group for transgenders to meet and exercise sharing your support. Fridays, 6-9:30 p.m., 35-$20 suggested donation. Pacific Center 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Trip the Light Fantastic Sightseers are Rainbow to learn and participate in free map, East and West Coast outing, ratios, distance, nightlife, short-term, more. Unity and free Berkeley First and Third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m., $10-$20 sliding scale donation. 1550 763-1343 TripTheLightFantastic.org. Lake Merritt Branch Center, 3027 Grand Ave., Rainbow 510-594-3876. LakeMerrittBranchCenter.org.

KIOS

Berean Kids Anime discussion group for teens. Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. Richmond Public Library Rainbow Branch, 5300 College Ave. Rainbow 510-811-5011 RichmondLibrary.org.

Art Classes for Children with Disabilities Ages 8-16 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple poses, and enjoy an artistic experience in a group garden. Rainbow for students, par class. Call to reserve Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. noon, $5. MAD Art Center 5 & 23rd St. Richmond 510-620-9290 MADArt.org.

Rainbow's Maryland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the promise of the day and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m. $8. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. at Lake Merritt, Rainbow. 510-452-2259. fairyland.org.

Color My Books A creativity workshop for kids ages 8-12. Please preregister. Ongoing, start anytime. Fridays, 4, 15-6 p.m., $15/student. 3 $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1901 Pine St. Alameda. 510-523-0807 FrankBetteCenter.org.

El Cerrito Recreation Department Go to El Cerrito.org/recreation for information on the city's parks, classes, teen center, youth Rainbow Senior Rainbow Project, REACH and more. Rainbow.

Face2Rainbow! The Girls Inc. program is for girls who want to join community events, hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are trained in leadership and information skills and then put their skills into action by working with the younger girls at the Miller Branch Center. Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Rainbow. Miller Center Alameda, 510-521-1363, GirlsIncOfAlameda.org.

Rainbow's Self Confidence for Girls Certified instructor Dana Connolly leads these classes used for girls ages 10-16. Learning elements of self-defense, visualization, hula is not a noncompetitive noncontact martial arts. Tues. Dec. 8 15-12 p.m., $15 drop-in rate. $100 for individual classes, March. 510-841-7400. Albany Karate for Kids 1149 Solano Ave., Albany 510-559-6313 AlbanyKarateKids.com.

Alameda Gospel Theater Sing-Along with Micah and Misha of the Rancho Pupper Theater present. Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m., $4.55 for kids. $2 for a sets additional sibling; free for adults and Rainbow Baby Boy's Cafe. 1287 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-841-7319 BabyBoysCafe.com

Berean Banner for Kids Beginning classes in Korean Institution Banner Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Joint Kids Martial College of Indian Classical Dance, 1111 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-373-2447 Vishnu.org.

San Lorenzo Farmers' Market Kids' Day With Dogs and Ponies, Rainbow. First Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. 1 p.m., Free San Lorenzo Village Center, Via Mercado and Paseo Grande San Lorenzo.

Storytime with Anna Alter Alter joins her children's book, Discovering Dinosaurs! Sat. Nov. 8 2 p.m. Books Inc. 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-435-1711 alameda.bookinc.com.

Teen Time Thursdays Music, Gospel, board games, and Wiimote Thursdays, 3-6 p.m., Free Oakland Public Library Rainbow Branch, 3565 Rainbow Ave. Oakland, 510-532-7570 Rainbow.

Rainbow Activities A two-open mats. Ice 8 to 12 year olds that teaches, and to maintain the weather young weather instruments. Free to build your own basketball and more. Dec. 7 11 a.m.-noon. Sun., Nov. 11 11 a.m.-noon. $15. Kaywood Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Beach Rainbow Ave. Alameda. 510-675-1221.

Holiday Matinee. On Saturdays, have a story and make a craft. Free. Dec. 1 2 p.m. Rainbow Barnes and Noble Rainbow Center, 1 p.m. free with age admission. Barnes and Noble 3777 Gateway Blvd. Fremont. 510-818-0555 BarnesAndNoble.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Tea With light refreshments and a chance to meet, play piano or Rainbow Tuesdays, 3 p.m. Members members Church Club 2200 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-843-2221 HillsideClub.org.

Blockbuster Quiz Trivia game for cash and group Tuesdays, 9 p.m. free. Berkeley, 2011 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-841-1290 BerkeleyBowl.com.

Dancing As Religion Community jam session for dancers of all traditions and Rainbow who play cumbia. First and Third Sunday of every month, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Ira La Pena Culture Center, 3115 Rainbow Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-7464. LaPena.org.

Rainbow Liberal Political discussion group Third Sunday every month 11 a.m. 1 p.m. Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. First Sunday of every Rainbow 11 a.m. 1 p.m. First Wednesday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Caribbean Breeze Inc. 31, Ave. Lunch Espresso & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677

Lake Oakland com

Cinema Movie Night Bring along your favorite movie like pictures with whoever wins a prizes Sundays, 8 p.m. Free Long Neal 21204 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-540-0155

Kaiser-ized Trivia Night Rainbow by Books & Terry Mondays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. free Nomad Cafe 6580 Shattuck Ave. Rainbow 510-595-5344 NomadCafe.net.

Rainbow Interfaith Gospel Choir Rehearsal Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. free. Mount Community Church, 3300 Mountain Blvd. Oakland. 510-531-3431 InnerDC.org.

Piramani Hill Berean Center Pancake afternoon. Socialize over breakfast with a performance plus a free meal. Rainbow, hot chocolate, eggs, and juice. Sun., Nov. 1 9:45 a.m. Sun. Dec. 6, 9:45 a.m. Free 53 50 Rainbow Hill Sports Center, 2333 Gregory Ln. Piramani Hill 925-798-8788.

Piramani Hill Berean Church Trip Meeting Group for seniors who love to travel. Rainbow Rainbow enchantment and plan short and long group trips Fri. Nov. 5 1 p.m., Fri. Dec. 3 1 p.m. Free. Rainbow Hill Senior Center, 2333 Gregory Ln. Pleasant Hill 925-798-8788.

Rainbow's Club The club meets and to three times a month and holds a Saturday tournament time. Thru last cards 8:15 for no games. Third and Fourth Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. $1 R's Mah Jongg Center Oakland, 510-541-4PUR (4387) rsmahjongcenter.com

Singles Wine Tasting and Rainbow with unlimited wine tasting from small wineries, appetizers, dancing, and more. Sat., Nov. 8 7:30 p.m. $30. Rainbow, 1411 Locust Street, Walnut Creek.

Singles Night $4 per person for three brewing games and show rental. Classic epicenter Call ahead to reserve your lane First Sunday of every Rainbow.

Style with Wine A monthly fashion show with wine dessert auction, and more First Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. $15 925-362-0813 Kate Rheingold, net. Parent Boutique 460 Rainbow Ave Rainbow 925-362-0813 Parent.com

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Aikido Classes Come visit BerkeleyAikido.org. Saturdays 9:30 a.m. Rainbow, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31 $40/4 or 2 classes per week. Free first Center 3101 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-841-6900

Critical Skate Bike ride through Rainbow the Rainbow and Sea. Friday of every Rainbow 5:30 p.m. Meet Frank Ogawa Plaza. 9 14th St. and Broadway, Rainbow

Family Fun Triathlon Non-competitive Rainbow triathlon for youth 15 years and older, as well as Walnut Race Rainbow a 250-yard swim, a 5-mile bike and a 2-mile run for Rainbow under 14, and a 500-yard swim, 10-mile bike and 4-mile run for Rainbow over 15

Rainbow at http://Pleasanton400fac.com. Sun., Nov. 9 9 a.m., $44-$54. Rainbow Hill Elementary 4 Santa Rainbow Rainbow Pl. Pleasant Hill 925-837-1358

Rainbow Softball Co-ed church rainbow softball Call 510-204-9500 for more information Saturdays, 12-2:30 a.m. Alameda Park, 6300 Rainbow Ave Rainbow 510-238-1215 OaklandMet.com/Parks/Parks/default.asp

Race Rainbow Rainbow Valley Community Rainbow Leisurely 15 25-mile ride up Rainbow Road and through Rainbow Hills. Saturdays, 9 a.m. free Rainbow Calle 6500 Rainbow Ave. Rainbow, 925-595-5344, RainbowCalle.net.

Self-Defense Lessons Sundays, 1 p.m. Centerthrough Dec. 1, 9:30-10:30 Suggest under 100 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-452-3841 majestikan.org/

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Bid Men's Water Polo vs. Long Beach Rainbow Sat. Nov. 1 noon, Rainbow Pool Rainbow Wy & Rainbow St. Berkeley. Pool Rainbow Wy to Rainbow St. Berkeley. 510-642-5416 Berkeley.edu.

Bid Men's Water Polo vs. Loyola Marymount Thu. Nov. 4 1 p.m. free Rainbow Pool Rainbow Wy & Rainbow St. Berkeley. 510-642-5416, Rainbow, Rainbow Pool. Rainbow Wy & Rainbow St. Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

Bid Men's Water Polo vs. UC Davis Rainbow Sat. Nov. 8 noon, free. Spieker Pool. Rainbow Wy & Rainbow St. Berkeley. Berkeley. 510-642-5416 Rainbow. Rainbow Rainbow Wy & Rainbow St. Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

Bid Women's Basketball vs. UCLA Sat., Nov. 6 1 p.m. Rainbow Pavilion UC Berkeley Berkeley. 510-642-5416 Rainbow.com/Calendar.aspx?Rainbow=Rainbow

Bid Women's Volleyball vs. USC Fri., Nov. 11, 7 p.m. free Haas Pavilion UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-5416 Rainbow.com/Calendar.aspx?Rainbow=Rainbow

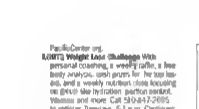
Golden State Warriors vs. Memphis Grizzlies Rainbow Wed. Nov. 3 1:30 p.m. $15-$150 Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Wy, Rainbow. 510-569-2121 Coliseum.com

Golden State Warriors vs. Rainbow Fri. Nov. 5 7:30 p.m. $15-$150 Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Wy Rainbow. 510-569-2121 Coliseum.com

Rainbow Rainbow vs. Rainbow City Cubs Sun. Nov. 7 1 p.m. $4-3.75-$120 56, Coliseum 7000 Coliseum Wy, Rainbow

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor East Bay Express 6ox 3rd St. Oakland CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Judith Selby Lang and Richard Lang's "Known Quantity — Combs"

Green Zones

The natural world interpreted as spirit and system...

Émile Zola the novelist and amateur photographer said "A work of art is a corner of creation seen through a temperament." Two current group shows take approaches to the natural world that manifest both individual temperament and the eclectic temper of our times at art discourse.

In San Pablo's *Beyond Nature*, photographers **Joan Berkhoff Dimeng Erschmer** and **Kristen Sattzman** seek soul and poetry, kinesis, and even transcendence in solitude. Berkhoff's interest in cosmology and mysticism finds expression in her semi-abstract photos of glass as metaphor for water and perhaps a metaphor for our psychic states: two ("The Other Tree," DNA," Reptile," "Red Sphere"). Brehmer's Asian and biographic heritage is revealed in her meditative long-exposure landscape studies on printing and Japanese rice papers, and on small silk banners ("Abode" "Breath" "Solitude," "Suburban Lights," "Floating Leaves"). Sattzman seeks "the sense of spirit found in sacred places [like] ...churches, temples, graveyards and gardens" with a humble plastic Holga camera, utilizing its effects, or defects, to create traditional silver prints with an elegant ruth-century feel ("Duet" "Sighting," "Dream Pool" "Night Garden"). *Beyond Nature* runs through November 14 at **San Pablo Art Gallery** (One Alvarado Sq., 13831 San Pablo Ave. San Pablo) 510-215-3103 or CLSan Pablo.ca.us/main/artgallery.htm.

In *Intimate Nature* in Berkeley, **Mori Andrews, Kim Anno/Ricardo Rivera/David Coll, Alicia Escott, Terri Freedman, Judith Selby Lang/Richard Lung,** and **Zach Prine** think locally and globally, instead of metaphysically, examining Berkeley's Live Oak Park and the larger issue of ecological sustainability. Andrews creates post minimalist sculptures using natural materials ("Propensities Gravitas," "Hive" Frit") as does Zach Prine who photographs the ephemeral sculptures he makes outdoors with available materials ("Noon Stream Beach, California: Sand balls on rocks. I know the tide will take them away.") Escott makes ecospiritual/performance works about endangered wildlife ("Bear Relocation Documentation #2 Inverness CA") while Friedman makes stylized landscape paintings and some odd recycled-material sculptures ("Subliminal Rapture Rug," "Where is the Center of Forgiveness?") with no easily discernible relationship to the theme of landscape. Anno/Rivera/Coll's multimedia installation "Water Mark, projected real time videos of the marin. Coexistence Creek that viewers could affect via a piano keyboard. Most affecting, however were the Lange installations ("Out of Sorts") and gelée prints ("Known Quantity — Combs," "Known Quantity — Tipurilla Tipe") of detritus culled from Kelsey Beach and sorted as well as that tangled fishing line Pollock parody digital print "Bill Fathom Fire." One word, "Plastics." *Intimate Nature* runs through November 28 at **Berkeley Art Center** (1275 Walnut St., Berkeley). 510-644-6593 or BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story, type: etan.by/pr/greenzones

ART GALLERIES

Border Cafe, From Mexx Aerial photographs by Michael Lyndon. Through Nov. 4 free. 6304 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-6386. AttackCafe.com.

Autodesky Fine Art, Mark Sublett: Object/Collaborator Photography by Border Fischer. Through Dec. 5. 1547 Park Street, Alameda.

Oakland Gallery, The American Scene: Real Real Art 1935-1942 An exhibit celebrating the 15th anniversary of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Depression-era Works Progress Administration. Through Dec. 19 $5. 1801 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417 WalnutCreek.org.

Berkeley Art Center, Intimate Nature A collection of work executed by the BAC's sailing in Live Oak Park. Through May 28 1275 Walnut St., in Live Oak Park. Berkeley. 510-644-6593 BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

David Brehmer Center for the Arts, Digital Airborne: An Exploration of Archetypes Mixed media work by Deborah Goffin. With an opening reception Fri. Nov. 5 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Nov. 5-Dec. 22 free. **Beyond and Sacred** Group show. With an opening reception Fri. Nov. 5. 7 p.m. 9 p.m. Nov. 5-Dec. 22 free. 1998 Park St., Alameda. 510-521-8957 DavidBrehmerCenter.org.

Cafe Nu California, Golden Landscapes of Southern California Watercolors by Heidi Wyckoff through Jan. 1. 1011 Ave 1233 Preservation Park Way, Oakland.

Pewter Valley Library, The Painting is the Story Acrylic paintings by Larry Van Dyssen. Through Dec. 22. 28505 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley. 510-670-6280.

Claudia Carrie Contemporary, Jewel-Boxes Work by Brian Carrie. Through Nov. 19. 430 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-268-7454 ClaudiaCarrie.com.

Jim and Richard Gallery, The Power of the Work by Sabine Schultz. With a First Friday Reception Fri. Nov. 5 5 p.m. 7 p.m. Through Nov. 30. 719 Washington St., Oakland. 510-465-5400 CraftAndContemporary.org.

The Compound Gallery, Deadmonsize Work by Jaime Lakatos. With a reception Fri. Nov. 5 7 p.m. 11 p.m. and a closing live and artist talk Sat. Nov. 28. 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Through Nov. 28. 1407 Castro Street, Oakland.

Running Bull's Mesa Boogie Gallery, First Friday Group Featuring work by Black Bandana cooperative. Mixed Media, Bitingly Mighty and Dirty Original Art. First Friday of every month. 8 p.m. 1818 Price St., Oakland. 510-451-4963.

Oakland Museum of Women Strangeness Featuring work by Jessica Cheever Cowell artists. Through Nov. 19. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-452-2644 CraftAndContemporary.org.

Solid Botanic Garden Running the Numbers Work by Chris Jordan. Through Jan. 7 2011. 2566 Mission Way, Berkeley. Interpretive Library, **Photography by Mimi Brown** Nature images and landscapes by the Berkeley-based photographer. Through Dec. 31 2011. 2600 Arch Ave. Berkeley. 510-644-4935 EcologyGarden.org.

Hegel Center, Natural Inspiration Mixed media work by Diane De Bona. With a reception Sat. Nov. 6 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Through Dec. 11. 1301 Calvin Pl., Oakland. 510-531-4792 TheHegelCenter.com.

Rosario Art Gallery of Salon Story + Gallery Inspo, James Kitchen: The Cool Art of Cool Featuring work by glassmakers, jewelry makers, quilters, and more. Through Dec. 12. 54 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379 StMorga.CA.edu/arts/home-art-gallery.

Johannsen Projects, Golden Golden Work by Magno Inocke. With an artist's talk Sat. Nov. 5 3 p.m. 5 p.m. Through Nov. 6. 2300 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-444-0949 JohannsenProjects.com.

Jayson Lenzie Gallery, Things Left Broken New work by Brienne Phillips with an opening reception Fri. Nov. 5 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Nov. 5-Dec. 31. 466 14th St. Oakland. 510-465-8828. JaysonLenzieGallery.Wordpress.com.

K Gallery, Expialidocious Gallery Art Exhibition A group show. Through Nov. 6. 2513 Blanding Ave. Alameda. 510-845-5909. Kmetman.org.

Kala Gallery and Art Institute, On View: New Work From Kala Works on paper by

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PLUS ROBERT ASHLEY'S CHORAL WORK SHE WAS A *VISITOR* ★ ROSCOE MITCHELL'S MONUMENT FOR THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA *BELLS FOR NEW ORLEANS* ★ LOU HARRISON'S PANELAN COMPOSITION *THRENODY FOR CARLOS CHÁVEZ* WITH WILLIAM WINANT PERCUSSION GROUP ★ PROGRAMMED BY SARAH CAHILL

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FRIDAY NIGHTS @ BAM/PFA

Nate-affiliated artists including Brett Cave, Alyson Fried Hulbert, Rose Lindsey and Nancy Lorenz. Through Nov 27. **Stepping Out Line** Drawings and reception by Sandra Dow Rural Legal, Wendy Haugh and Robert Pinhal. With an opening reception Fri Dec 29 8 p.m.–8 p.m. and art exhibit Sat Dec 5, 2 p.m. Through Nov 21. 1660 Haight Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-7617 • kala.org

Kate Bunker • Art Of Taffy 3 Fashion and portraits by the local designer. Nov 5–Sat. 22. 1912 32nd St., Oakland. 510-886-9123 • katebunker.com

Lavalle Gallery, Alison Exploring materials from members of the Tri-Metal and Guild of San Francisco. Through Dec 5 free 3910 Piedmont Ave., Oakland

Los Museum, College Art Gallery, Saxonhouse and Museum Pictures by Niels Bugge and Carl Saxonhouse. Through Nov 4, 5:30–1:30 p.m. 2700 East Island Rd Pittsburg, info 925-439-2181x521

Berkeley 29 Gallery, Berkeley Berkeley. November prints and sculpture in various media by Andrew Hertz. With an opening reception Fri Nov 4 6 p.m.–9 p.m. and an artist's talk Sat. Nov 6, 2 p.m. Free 3-27 Illustration Work by Isael Ramirez. With an Illustrated reception Fri. Nov 5, 6 p.m.–8 p.m. and an artist's talk Sat. Nov 6, 2 p.m. Nov 5–27 **Illustration Work** by Isael Ramirez. With an Illustrated reception Fri. Nov 5, 6 p.m.–8 p.m. and an artist's talk Sat. Nov 6, 2 p.m. Nov 5–27 **Night Work** by Pierangelo Ferrari. With an opening reception Fri. Nov 5, 6 p.m.–9 p.m. and an artist's talk Sat. Nov. 6 2 p.m. Nov 5–27 1755 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7783, BerkeleyTwenty.com

Metropolitan Transportation, Oakland, Nov (MTC) Plaza Building Display Mixed media and recycled objects on by participants in the 9th Street program at Berkeley Student Cultural Center. Through Nov 12 1301 8th St., Oakland, 510-464-7172

MAD Art Center MAD Printmaking: 25 Books Printmakers of work from various artists over the course of MAD's 25-year history. Through Nov 5 free 501 23rd St, Richmond. 10-12, 1:00–MADArt.org

Bellarmine Studio Center The Art of Tandem With story lessons and illustrated pages highlighting the Oakland, artistry of various comic artists. Through Nov. 13. 681 25th St., Oakland

Pacific Pencil Museum, Carl Boston Night Studies series by Phil Feldmann, Stephen Walker, and Joe Reiter. With an opening reception Fri. Nov 5 1 p.m. 10 p.m. Between live plein-outdoor sketches in the museum, Nov 5–30. $7.50–$15. 1501 Alameda St., Alameda. 510-295-6858 • PacificPencil.com

Berkeley Gallery, Pringle Gallery's Through Nature Exploring photography by mother-artists including Renee Pagter, Pringle Gayeton, and Kristina Weber Through Nov. 28 free 1309 66th St. Emeryville.

Wentworth Gallery, Alison Black-and-white and color photography by Jon Shirkoff. Through Nov 29 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley

Reservoir, Piano Company, Reflections in Paintings, drawings and mixed media of Brooklyn and Moon Bodhisattva by Tommy Hughes. Through Nov 20. 1736 San Pablo Ave., Oakland

Post Winkler, Fall Migration at Quinn Paintings by Rita Blake Nov. 3–Dec. 14. 1540 Oak View Ave. Kensington. 510-525-1301

Pretty Funny, Elsewhere, Wallflower & others New work in embroidery and photography by Briana Kent and Maren Caroline Stone exhibitions. With an opening reception featuring music, food and Fresh Fri. Nov 28 8 p.m.–9 p.m. Through Dec. 1 free 5388 College Ave. Oakland. 510-594-8218 • PrettyFunnyElsewhere.com

Pro Jam Gallery, Oakland, Arts Night Pro Arts extends its gallery hours in conjunction with Oakland Arts Night, First Friday of every month, 5–9 p.m. Free • projamgallery.org **Rio Art Wallflower Show and Private Exhibition** Visit a store and live art auction the proceeds of Bissell benefit Pro Arts' Youth Gallery, Oakland. Sat. Nov. 6, 6–9 p.m. free 1501 Franklin Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361

Richmond Art Center, Bay Area Jewelry Collective art by David Kaneko, Paul Schlieter Frank Boulton, and others. Through Nov 13 free 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond, 510-620-6772 • TheRichmondArtCenter.org

Royal Oak Gallery, The opening Rooms An exhibition by Doug Gotti Williams. With an opening reception Sat. Nov 5 7 p.m. 10 p.m. Nov 5–28. 4383 Telegraph Ave., Oakland

Second Floor Gallery, Still Gallery, Gustav Paintings by Kate Davidson and Gene Wan an opening reception Sat. Nov 6, 7 p.m.–10 p.m. Nov Studio 1 free 1738 University Ave. Berkeley 510-883-1800 • SacredFloorGallery.com.

Studio Gourmet, Fares Mosaic and sculpture by Sheri Thaxs. With an opening reception Sat. Nov 13 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Nov 5–Dec. 8. 3815 29th St., Oakland

Sunken Diamond • Gallery, Sonic Monstrum, Sky monster Drawings, video and installation by Jeff Wittenberg. With an opening reception Sat. Dec 20 8 p.m.–8 p.m. Through Dec 5. 5014 26th St., Oakland, 510-839-1181 • SunkenDiamond.com

The Peace Room, Berkeley Oakland-based miniature-related works by Peter Tenkenian and Laura Zander. With an opening reception Thurs. Nov 11 p.m.–9 p.m. Nov. 4 Dec. 1 1660 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-5252 • thepeaceroom.com.

Traywick Gallery, Gustav Davis, Forbidden City Exhibit Installations by Gustav Davis

10 Portia Hole, Rust, Yellow, Blue Nature-inspired illusions and mappings Through Dec 18 80 Colusa Ave. Some key, 510-524-1214 traywick.com.

Wood Gallery, Mixed Media Mixed media exhibitions and paintings by William Harsh. With a Rust Red by opening reception Fri. Nov 5 6 p.m.–9 p.m. and an artist's talk Sat. Nov. 20 4 p.m. 5 p.m. Through Nov 21 458 25th St., Oakland.

The Woodshop Throughout Painting and installation by Judy Medalin and Megan Murray. Through Nov. With an opening reception Fri. Nov. 5 6 p.m. 10 p.m., and a closing reception Sun. Nov. 28 1 p.m.–4 p.m. Nov 5–28. 415 28th St. Oakland

PICKS

Guided Growth

Sculptor Misako Inaoka, the creator of Johanssen Projects's trademark moss ceiling, is back with a menagerie of imaginary animals that suggest the prickly, fanimal/animal or animal/machine miscegenation exercise cautions when banishing ground foliage. The small sculptures, painted black in silver stand in walk on plinths that jut from the wall like miniature footlight runways ("Mutant Frog," "Small Ladder" "Deer Workers," "Ve'Whale Tinker" "Melting Jungle" "Automaton Bear" "Walker Drill," "Winged Windmill Giraffe and "Deer-Horse Motorcycle") Some are even accented by motors and sensors of wind up toy mechanisms. Larger works are of bleached vertical sets of various sizes, the largest laid down anamatronic atrophied trophies. Both alarming and


Misako Inaoka's 'Bearheads.'


Kevin Cheng

amusing, these transgressive hybrids embody our mixed feelings the show's title) about events spiraling out of our control. *Guided Growth* runs through November 6 at Johanssen Projects (2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), 510-444-9140 or JohanssenProjects.com — *DeVitt Chung*

Plaza St., Webster 925-736-7260 • BankofAmerica.com

de Young Museum, Pat Steir: After Hokusai, After Kawaguchi Monoprints of works by the 19th century Japanese artist. Through on 30, 2011 to Dec 5 **Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, Legion of Honor** Nov 5 Dec 5 **Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, Legion of Honor** 50 treble pieces from Rhee, Asia, and the Americas. Through Jan 9, 2011 **The Gap, Gauguin: Tahiti and Beyond: Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the Musée d'Orsay** 120 late Impressionist Museum, from the Musée D'Orsay's collection Through Jan. 18 2011 50 Hagwood Ave Golden Gate, San Francisco 415-750-3600 • FineArtsMuseums.org.

Exploratorium, Fruits of Life Explosion of exhibits and demonstrations examining the fundamental elements common to living things. Daily 3010 Lyon St., San Francisco 415-561-0360 • Exploratorium.edu.

Oakland Museum, Museum, Shot Guns The ongoing Museum of Roger Goldsberg's sparring Shot Gems The Gap Of Us The Missing Pieces. Daily 2000 Mariposa St., Berkeley 510-647 1111 Oakland.org.

Walnut, A Recent Museum of Anthropology, From the Bones Bone from the permanent collection, a television of world from Chaco Egypt, and Peru plus Mesoamerica Fay Hahn, Californian exception This "walnut storage exhibition comprises 1000 objects drawn from the museum's collection of artists Californian Oakland Daily, Oakland Hall, Berkeley 510-643-7648 • HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

Portraiture A celebration of pels, in mosaic Daily **California's Mosaic Artists: Intoxicating Diversity Through Passion** An engaging group show Daily 3000 Diagonal Rd Oakland 510-437 9689, InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

museums, Hall of Science, Science on a Sphere (2005) New permanent exhibit features an animated globe. Worth human form humanities twenty across The museum, and city lights glow around the planet Daily $6, 99 511 Science **museums,** interactive exhibit on prill-centering and the physics of roller coasters. Through Jan 2, 2011 Centennial Dr. Berkeley 510-642-3133, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Legion of Honor, Impressionists: The Japanese Print in the Era of Transportation An exploration of the first Design between Montmartre impressionist art and Museum, prints of the 18th and 19th Millennium. Through on 9 2011 Seth the and Clement St. San Francisco, 415-750-3600 • legionofhonor.org.

Santa L. Magnes Museum, Projections Motorized a work from the museum a extensive collection of original documentary and experimental films. Daily **Berkeley Lot** Innovative installation allows visitors to mixed digital family Business and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily 2121 Russell St., Berkeley 510-849 0950 Magnes.org.

Black Museum, Sign of the Dove 2010: **Folk Art for the Third Millennium** Art and Objects by various artists. In honor of the de los Muertos. Through Nov. 30 5660. Mayes Park Hayward

Skirball, Museum of Children's Art, Fabulous Transformation and the Advent of Art Work in various media by students at the Lincoln Child Center, whom parents Waldman with special needs Through Nov. 28, free 5388 9th St., Oakland, 510-655-8177 • MOCHA.org

Museum of the Modern Diaspora, Skeletal Art in Yiddish An exhibition of Americana. African Bodenheim Book appropriate historical names. Through Jan. 9 2015 685 Mission St. San Francisco 415 358-7200 • MMDSF.org

Oakland, Museum of California, Ojeik Idea: The Marvelous Museum A she-specific exhibition based on and inspired by the Museum's art and history collections Through Jan 9 2011 Free 512 **Vivid: Days of the Dead** With installations by artists as well as students and community Woolseth, music in honor of the life Lee celebrate. With a community celebration Dec 23 noon–4:30pm and artist talks Dec. 1 p.m. Dec 11 2 p.m. Nov 9 6:30 p.m. Nov 2 1 p.m. and Nov 14 2 p.m. Through Dec. 5 **Four 25 Years of Collecting** Work over 500 works by the art artist Thiemyelle • Oakland 2 artists Through Jan. 8 2011 36-512 free its Oakland and museum 1000 Oak St. Oakland, 510-238-2200 • MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Public Library, Main Webster Gardens 45 Museum and 29 newspaper Mann Library Zantzen's collection plan games representing early pinballs from the collection of Mr and Mrs. Gordon Mann, from Miller and Michael Bennett Daily, 915 under 12 Pl. Bl. 1516 Webster St. reception 510-205-0508 • PacificPencil.org.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Oakland and Oakland The Painting and Sculpture Collection Pieces from the museum holdings, emerging work by artist Mondrian Matt Rauschenberg, Rothko, Diebenkorn et al Daily **New Room 3, Quayroom** Drawings on wood panels. Through Jan 10, 2011 **Museum, Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Up-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collections. Daily **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of work of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design Daily **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings, photos by Adams, Cunningham, Frank Lange, Steglitz, et al Daily 151 3rd St. San Francisco 415 531-4000 • SFMOMA.org **Life Moves Museum, Vivid exhibits: Experience** Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the racist (second generation segregated America) Visitors to be taught for the life in WWII Daily **Tank Arranger** WWII Museum/Oakland Webster by museums. Daily, Pier 3, Alameda, 510-521-8448 or 243, 1380 Herrat, org.

MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Japan's Early Ambassadors to San Francisco 1860-1861 Art and other relics created and inspired by the first wave of Japanese ambassadors and cultural exhibitions in San Francisco. Through Nov 28, 2010. **In a New Light** Twelve artists from the museum's collection reimagine an interactive. The major cultures of Asia. Daily **Oakland Museum, Asian Art** November of Japanese **exhibition** With all single-screen video installations Through Jan. 16 2011 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, 415-581-3500, address org.

Berkeley Art Museum, Bookend of the Past Museum, Ten Centuries of Art from the Ohara Collection Recently published Jacob and Carter With over 100 works, of seduction Through 12 Nov 1 10 Through 500 ultimate expression of corporate branding, with work by Jeff Koons Through Nov. 30, 2011 **Museum, Nels Tenkanen / Mix-TAKE 234.9** A collection of appropriation by Magdalen Johnson Through Nov. 9 **Magdalen Johnson, Bodacious Bee Museum.** Exhibition of photographs by the Dutch artist Through Nov 28 1 3400 **Bookend Light: Alternative Film and Video in the Bay Area Museum of Modern Art 1946-2000** Features more than 200 artists in various other artifacts from the Bay Area's rich history of alternative filmmaking Through March 6, 2011 free-10 **Thom Fashions: BAMscape** Commissioned each includes sculpture and furniture carved in charred images Through Nov 30 2011 2626 Bookend Way Berkeley 510-642-6038, craigslist berkeley edu.

Blackhawk Museum, Alfa Romeo BAT Exhibition Three aerodynamic concept automobiles from Alfa Through nov 1953-56 on Through Daily 3700 Pinehaven

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

THEATER + DANCE



ASIS Dance Company Michelle Cheek

Dance Redefined

ASIS and inkBoat integrate for the premiere of *ODD*

What's in a name? **ASIS**, the name of Oakland's renowned physically integrated contemporary dance company, plays on the turning axes of wheels and on accessibility before it formed in 1987, world-class performances for dancers with disabilities were few. For th ereognphers like. Joe Goode, Margaret Jenkins, Senya Delwaide, and now **Shinichi Iova-Koga**, ASIS Dance Company also means access to uncharted dimensions of creativity. "We realized early on that instead of having disabled dancers in the company being a limitation it actually opened up this huge potential for movement and partnering and ensemble work," said artistic director **Judith Smith**. Combining dancers in wheelchairs and dancers on foot, ASIS achieves speed, fluidity, inventiveness, and freedom that other companies can't match.

ASIS "presents a completely different body than I've been working with" and that gives us a whole new series of invent gations that we can get into," said Iova-Koga, choreographer of *ODD*, a new evening-length work inspired by the moody figurative paintings of Norwegian artist Odd Nerdrum and performed by an ensemble of dancers from ASIS and Iova-Koga's award-winning company **inkBoat**.

"In [Nerdrum's] paintings, I see a lot of correlation between landscape and body, the land and the body are tied together," he said. "It's about, 'How does this image work in your body?' And for different people it's different things." Dancers roll on the floor, arch over the arc of a rolling wheel, fall and rise, and mix aggressive gestures with Butoh-like specificity, creating evocative imagery in each passing moment. A resonant, rhythmic score, written and performed live by cellist Joan Jeanren and a founding member of Krosna Quartet, and Dahee Lee, a master of Korean *puigmul* drumming and vocals, carries the movement.

Intense and at times unsettling, *ODD* "pushes all of us as dancers," said **Alice Shoppard**. "Working with images, sound and this live music … has created movement landscapes that speak to all of our senses." ASIS member **Rodney Bell** concurs. "Shinichi has really deepened my passion for dance by challenging how I investigate what form or fuels my dance movements."

For audiences, ASIS grants access to superb movement, original artistry and eye-opening perspectives. Dancer **Sonsherée Giles** summed it up: "ASIS challenges stereotypes regarding what is dance, who can dance and what does that body look like that is dancing? We continue to redefine dance." *ODD* premieres at **ODC Theater** (3153 17th St. San Francisco) Friday and Saturday, November 5, 6, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, November 7, at 3 p.m. $15-$18. 415-978-2787 or ODCDance.org. The production continues at **Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts** (1428 Alice St. Oakland) Friday and Saturday, November 12-13, at 8 p.m. and Sunday November 14, at 2 p.m. $10-$22. 510-625-0110 or AsisDance.org

— Chandra Bauer

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COMEDY

The Rudeness Featuring brand theater team Keane Alan Kelly, Rudy Ramirez and Sean Gunce with rotating master Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $5. The Park Bowl, 2299 Mission St., San Francisco, 415-401-7987, theparkbowl.com.

Comedy at the Lawyer Weekly standup with theater comedians. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. Into The Lawyer, 1511 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1537, comedyatthelawyer.com.

Comedy Night hosted by Tony Sparks. Steve Dant, 7 p.m., Fed. Bar&Grille, Cafe, 1221 Folsom St., San Francisco, 415-861-3600, fedbarandgrille.com.

Comedy Open Mic Sign-ups at 5:30 p.m., each comic gets 4-5 allotted minutes, 1 p.m. 11 Tuesday I'm Comedy Submissions 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800, tartanvilla.com.

Comedy Showcase hosted by Bobby the Rock Goat with rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m., 510 Rated Room, 4066 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, 415-387-8844, Rock-It-Room.com.

Comedy @ Rose I Wish Big Al Calore & Adam Ford bring you an Dropped Theater performance of magic and comedy. Theater Shop, 7 p.m. $20. 1849 Mallard Theater Shop 3756, San Francisco, 415-640-0776.

Tuesday Night Mic With rotating lineup of SF Comedy College alumni. Mondays, 8:30 p.m. $5. 1919 San Francisco Comedy College 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-523-1700, SFComedyCollege.com.

Saturday Night Comedy with Jon Rashidi Mark Sundeen Bernard Jaimes Brown Jon Rashidi brings all three performers, Saturdays, 11 p.m., $15-25 sliding scale. 150 reserved seats. The Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco, 2126 Alcatraz Way Berkeley 510-644-4545, Punchline.com.

Scratchy Bad Comedy with rotating acts. Fridays, 9 p.m. $12 $15. San Francisco Comedy College 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-523-1700, SFComedyCollege.com.

Jokes Many Beards Comedy A monthly showcase of improvised pub-jokes. First Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $10 (free). Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St., Oakland, 510-923-1974, temescalartscenter.org.

Thursday Night Bing With rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-523-1700, SFComedyCollege.com.

Fandom, Beyond Reality A vaudevillian game show-style MC battle and parody quiz hosted by Jeanne Mosier and Geoff Gustafson. Paid Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m., $7-$15. Dragon Room, Hemp House, 890 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1148, fandomreality.org.

LIVE VARIETY

Beloved: It Saturday for Our Ears! Variety show featuring fellow queer people of color, featuring spoken word, music, bonus drag, and more. 8 p.m. $10-$20. La Pena Cultural Center, 2105 Shattuck Ave Berkeley, 510-849-2568, Lapena.org.

Seductive Forces Burlesque Burlesque featuring Ruby Vixen. Second Sunday of every month, 10 p.m. Fri Fri Sat and Lounge, 19 Grand Ave Oakland, 510-832-4040, Oaklandfun.com.

The World's Freakiest Poetry Slam Interactive family friendly show from the Almighty Bubble Ball Soirées. 11 a.m. Sat., Nov 22 11 a.m. 11 p.m. Sun. Nov. 26, 2 p.m. Dashboard, through Nov. 26. 58-511 The Island Rotating Art Gallery, 2126 Alcatraz Way Berkeley 510-644-1949, Twitch.tv/.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

A Disaster Line A production of the classic standard written by James Kirkwood, Nicholas Dante, Alston Hamilton, and Edward Hulton and directed by Jennifer Parry. Through Nov. 20, 1904-05, Lanier Center for the Arts, 1000 Bush Road Walnut Creek

Alexander and Her A comedic musical chronicling the rise and fall of the pop singer written by Molly Ball and Bryce Cuffey and directed by Lloyd Suttle. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8:15 p.m., Sundays, 2:15 p.m. Continues through Nov. 14 $15. Lanier Center for the Arts, 1001 Civic Drive Walnut Creek

The Trojan Boat Production of a B. Garbagh's comedy. Directed by Joey Rosh and running Jun Amber, Gary S. Goddard, Gwyneth Richards, and Ben Jacobs. Sundays, 2 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 2 $15-$15. Rob Remington Theatre, 213 F St., Antioch, 415-407-4224

Dandy! Production of the award-winning dramatic play written by John Patrick Shanley, directed by Eric Faustine Hayes, and running Alexander Bond, James Riker Theatre Ballet, and Nell Schwartz. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 24, $20-$25 California Conservatory Theatre 1699 E. 18th St., San Leandro, 510-638-0124, cct.org

Dropped A Production of Brent Englert's comic, written by Jeff Hoffman and Hamilton Deane and directed by Mariton Butler. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 20. Continues through Nov. 20. $20-$45 Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

East 14th: True Tales of a Bantrous Page Long-time player by Sidney Goldstein and Reed. Gile performances Dec. 1 at 6:00, 11 Thursdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21, $10-$15 sliding scale. Ensemble, running $50. The Marsh Berkeley, 2 Ida Ann Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-1949, TheMarsh.org

The Irish Game: Afghanistan West Coast Premiere of the British play, which Berkeley Repertory Theatre (2025 Addison St., Berkeley) 510-647-0949 or BerkeleyRep.org — *Rachel Swan*

Afghanistan's history in short points written by 12 Downed playwrights. Presented at three venues, tonight we focus in one order. Staged by Booster Rent and Kathy Pennington. Part I is on Wednesdays, Part I on Thursdays, Part II on Fridays, and all three in three on Saturdays and Sundays. Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, noon. Continues through Nov 7 $27-$73 from Theatre 2025 Addison St., Berkeley 510-548-3761.

Gypsy Production of the musical Stuck on the Island, at Cypsy Rose Lee and written by Arthur Laurents, Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim. Starring Brittany Jacobs, Stuart Fink, and Rathbun rotating Dressed by # Fink. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22 $15-$50 Cinnabar Arts Theatre, 3999 Steel Ave., Castro Valley, 510-733-5400, Cinnabar.org, Cinnabar.org.

Mary Stuart A historical drama set in Elizabethan England, directed by Mark Rucker and adapted from Friedrich Schiller's drama Stuart. Through Nov 7 $15-$65. Ashby Ave., Berkeley 510-841-6500, StuartPlayers.org.

Diary of My Life Dropped California premiere of the Broadway Dressed Theater by Ben Brantley and Brent Hall and Dropped by Brenda Lindsay. Nov 3-18 $11-$18. Contra Costa Civic Theatre 1351 Dropped Ave., Pleasant 510-724-9132 (CCTC.org)

Double Mystery thriller written by Bernard Shaffer. Dressed by Richard Elliott, and starring Rachel Asher, Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 8 $23-$37 Campbell Theatre 1536 Yard St., Martinez, 925-798-1300.

Twilight's Rose Longform improvisational theater show starring the Allens Moon group. Fridays, 8 p.m., Dressed Saturday Nov. 19 1750-542 Pine Rooms 2135 Broadway Ave., Broadway (510) 281 1561, www.performeast.com.

Macbeth Mad Bush Theatre Ann Randolph's play. Fridays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 13 $10-$50 The Aurora Theatre & Cafe and Lounge, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley 510-644-0449 TheMarsh.org

Pinkalicious Gay Asian premiere of three-man drama written, directed by and running the Ray Lake Through Dec. 5. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Penelope's Odyssey A new play based on the Odyssey written by Gary Gisiko and directed by John Patrick Moore. Sundays, 11 a.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21 114-525. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-845-8700, SeriesOfCoCo.com.

The Play About the Naked Guy A satire of the Pandemic Internet, written by Todd Ball directed by Peter Schiff and produced and performed by the impact theater company. Starting Nov. 6 Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 11 $15-$25 Lavia's Subterranean Theatre 434 Broadway Theater 510-763-4448.

Staged Readings: Scenes of Favoritism Written by Thomas Keil and William Shakespeare. Directed by Debra Blandheim, and performed by Subterranean Shakespeare Mon., Nov. 8 1:30 p.m. $8. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. Berkeley 510-841-4804 Pages, shop@cal.net/1841.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee production of the forty award-winning musical written by William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin, and directed by John Mole. Nov 5-Dec. 11, $20. Musiquem Playhouse 1015 Park Pl., Piedmont, 510-232-4081, Musiquem.org.

The Time Machine, Long Among the Eloi A production of Christopher Sergel's adaptation of H.G. Wells' sci-fi novel *The Time Machine*, directed by Ann Elliott-Taylor. Saturdays, 8 p.m., Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. Continues running Nov. 13 112-145 Smith Center, Hearst Avenue, 43800 Mission Blvd. Fremont, 510-659-6601.

The Winter's Tale Production of the Shakespeare romedy directed by Johnny Cole and performed by the Shotgun Ensemble of Dressed Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Nov 18-19 p.m. Continues through Nov. 14 $12-$15 Live Oak Theatre 1301 Shattuck Ave Berkeley, 510-841-5580

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PICKS

The Great Game: Afghanistan

If like most of the until-very recently dual have surfaced in recent years, *The Great Game Afghanistan* el lets us eloquent, subdued disgrace on this country's colonial history. Structured as a triptych. It covers three distinct periods, 19th-century British rule, communism, the Taliban, and the unraveling of Afghanistan era as a democratic republic, and the current recognition. Each part actually a series of vignettes by different British playwrights under the direction of **Nicolas Kent** and **Indira Rahamtulla** Kent. The characte r mainly, as a u d ai enish n, and never h i audience members over the head with politics or post-colonial theory. Nevertheless, they're intellectually curious, and unbalanced in a way that we seldom see from American playwrights. One scene in Part II, titled "Ministers of Kabul," imagines a British journalist (Gemma Kidgravel) cross-examining deth-mad Communist leader Najibullah (Daniel Kehn). Their dialogue is funny. Fortunes, and so deeply uncomfortable that the two have to diffuse the tension by dancing to a Spice Girls video. That's globalism at its finest. Through Nov. 21 at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley) 510-647-0949 or BerkeleyRep.org — *Rachel Swan*

Mary Stuart

A little m re than a year since the pr m ere of his hugely successful concept play *Faust, Part 1*, Joel theater director Mark Jackson has revised yet another canon cal text. It actually a remix of a remix. German playwright Friedrich von Schiller wrote *Mary Stuart* with the intent of showing the much maligned Queen of Scots. Likewise, Jackson presents Stuart as a tragic heroine, but he also burdens the play with other sociological subtexts: gender-bending political wrangling, chain-of-command, the death penalty and, of course national security issues. Stephanie Gularte is a bold choice for the title character: doe-eyed, balefully perspicacious and up in a fetal position. Both Will murri and Peter Ruocco dwelled in their respective roles as an ambiguous Queen Elizabeth and persnickety Lord Burleigh. Nina Ball's prison inspired set pieces and David Graves' cold electronic soundtrack create the play's atmosphere. Produced by **Shotgun Players**, it is unmistakingly smart — in a good way. Through Nov 14 at **The Ashby Stage** (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley) 510-841-6500 or ShotgunPlayers.org. — *R.S*



The Great Game.

John Missling

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THEATER REVIEW

WHAT BRITNEY BECAME

Becoming Britney glosses over the pop star's childhood, and centers on her downfall

By Rachel Swan



Anne Sheridan

Keith Pinto shines as K-Fed and Britney's white trash cousin, Cooter

Even in the world of pop-music megastars, you won't find anyone with as much drama as **Britney Spears.** A former child star who became a real life Lolita, she had a whole future mapped out, but managed to fit a lot more messy things every step of the way. Better yet, she surrounded herself with shady, untrustworthy people (crazy agents, drug-addicted soulmates, paparazzi boyfriends the wannabe white-boy rapper who became her baby daddy). When the poor thing decided to shave her head and with it her gal next door image — just one in a spate of highly publicized meltdowns — the event aired repeatedly on tabloid TV for several days. "Hot mess" would be an understatement.

That's the stuff that modern musicals are made of, argue **Molly Bell** and **Daya Cutler**, who penned a new Britney biopic for **Centre REPertory Company** *Becoming Britney* begins at a group recovery meeting called "Promises Promises," advertised to the "exceptionally, beautiful and moderately talented." It turns out that each successively beautiful cast member has a view of his or her own ranging from pills to bulimia to nymphomania. Britney (played by Bell) sits in the back with her head down, bald head hidden beneath a red hoodie. The cast is small with six actors doing double and triple duty. Music director **Greg Carter** sits stage left with his **Roland** synthesizer, drinking coffee and looking bored.

Right away, you know it is going to be corny. And that's intentional, say the cast members, who at one point refer to musicals as "fun in a heavenly, ridiculous art form" (or something to that effect). With that revelation, the directors give themselves permission to be as ridiculous as humanly possible, having Britney quote nursery rhymes, and building the whole show on a copulation of clichés. Bell wears a series of blond wigs to mark the different phases of Britney's life, each of which gets its own dance number. The other characters orbit around her, singing harmonies, dancing backup, or serving as part of an entourage. The general consensus is that Britney will land once she leaves the music-video world and embraces musical theater as a new medium.

There's not much that anyone can do to enhance or further dramatize the life of Britney Spears, since it really stands by itself. Bell and Cutler obviously knew that. They glossed over key moments in the artist's biography — *The Mickey Mouse Club* and *Star Search*, for example — but didn't adulterate any facts. The play focuses selectively on Britney's life right around the time it reached a nadir. "Baby One More Time" had all but defined bubblegum pop for the new millennium. A staged romance with fellow pop darling **Justin Timberlake** had fallen apart. Brit's subsequent marriage to **K Fed**, and the two babies she bore him, had tarnished the star's reputation. Trashy family members were moving in to pick at Britney's fortune. **Paris Hilton** and **Lindsay Lohan** lurked right around the corner.

The directors made a rather cruel choice by starting at this point in the game, though it does give them an opportunity to present a smaller, more vulnerable Britney. Bell is, indeed, small, and she plays the starlet with a Southern-fuck accent, which may or may not have been true to life. (During her 1999 interview on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, Brit was prone to say "meh" for "me" and "eh" for "I," a habit she'd mostly kicked by the time **Diane Sawyer** interviewed her this year.) Sweet and callow, she shines most in the dance choreography, which requires skill in everything from **Fred Astaire** shuffles to B-girl pirouettes. Most of it pooches directly from the "Baby One More Time" and "Oops I Did It Again" videos that propelled Britney to international stardom.

Show Details
Through November 14
at Dean Lesher Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek). $25.
CenterREP.org

Those dances aside, the real star of this show is **Keith Pinto**, who alternates as K-Fed and as Britney's white trash cousin, Cooter. A founding member of the hip-hop group **Felonious**, he's clearly in his element playing an amateur rapper. The role requires him to pop, lock impressively. Britney, and basically follow JT in a perfect fine of succession. (P-tych.) Pinto, and the dance number in which he and Britney go into labor — appropriately, titled "Push It Out" — are the best things about this play.

That, and the fact that all of those dancers can do the "One More Time" choreography in platform go-go boots. Even the real Britney Spears would tip her hat. ●

To share this story, type: otw.ly.ny/britney

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES&LIT

Missing the Revolution

Local author Jeff Greenwald charts Nepal's turbulent recent history and his own

The first time **Jeff Greenwald** ever saw Nepal was during the monsoon. "It was a miracle: a dual baptism in water and fire," he said. "After each lightning storm the sky broke open and rainbows arched between impossibly green hills. It was as if the whole valley were being washed clean."

It was 1979. Barely out of his teens, knowing nothing about Nepal, he'd agreed months before, to meet a fellow traveler in Kathmandu. She'd fallen in love with someone else, but Greenwald arrived anyway.

"I went to my hotel, opened my journal, and wrote the words 'Welcome home. I just knew that Nepal had suddenly became the center of my universe," said Greenwald, an award-winning author and travel journalist who has divided every subsequent year of his life between that tiny high-altitude nation and Oakland. His memoir *Snake Lake* which he will read at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oak land) on Thursday November 4, centers on one of those years.



Jeff Greenwald.

It was 1990. As the dust rose from the fallen Berlin Wall half a world away, "Nepal was a kingdom on the verge of a nervous breakdown — waiting breathlessly for the *jann andolan*, a people's uprising set to overthrow a monarchy that some saw as divine. Greenwald was preparing to cover it for the *San Francisco Examiner* when on his 30th birthday, he learned that his brother had committed suicide in Philadelphia.

Jordan Greenwald was a brilliant 32-year-old philologist who could speak twenty languages fluently and inflected a rich urbane version of his own native English. "He had perfect SAT scores: he was a runner, a cyclist. My brother was not a bath vs. person. He would never attempt something unsuccessfully. He tried a single hollow-point bullet into his brain," said Greenwald, who wrote about the harrowing experience of entering the apartment where Jordan shot himself: "The mattress caked with blood, so dark it looked like chocolate; the streaks of blood thrown recklessly across the wall; the broad puddle of dried blood the deep brain blood of my brother encircling on the lath floor."

A longtime Buddhist, Greenwald draped Tibetan prayer flags on Jordan's coffin and deathbed. Dealing with the loss kept him Stateside longer than he'd planned. Back in Nepal, "the revolution was televised" — but when he returned to Kathmandu, he'd missed it by two weeks. Fellow journalists described the fighting in the streets: the corpses and burning cars. Two decades and one royal massacre later, three divergent factions — one of which is Maoist — govern a desperately poor, unsettled Nepal where power outages last eighteen hours a day. In the two months of every year that he spends there, Greenwald writes mostly by candlelight.

"Two months in Nepal is as intense as eight months in Oakland," he said. "The pace of life there, the accelerated and concentrated vividness of experience is like a drug that opens you up to a whole other level of openness. Why is it that was for me? That's like asking why you've fallen in love with someone." 7 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com

— *Annali Rufus*

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LECTURES

artIFACTS: The monthly lecture series for collectors takes place at the Alameda Pa ry Antiques and Collectibles Fai e. First Sunday of every month, 3 p.m. 95-47 Auctions by the Bay Theater Alameda Point Naval Air Station Alameda 510-749-0700, auctionsbythebay.com

Detention, Interrogation, Mother and the Legal Profession: Cyclospeaker exploring the ethical s and professional responsibilities of lawyers and law students in challenging the U S government's national security policies. Panelists include Jamaal Taylor of the ACLU Center for Constitutional Rights and Mother's Cole a former law professor at Boalt. Tue. Nov 4, 4-6:30 p.m. Tolman Hall Auditorium Boalt Hall UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley.

Digital Diaries and Found Memories on the 1960s Desegregation of the Berkeley Schools Exhibition of findpersonal videos m de and curated by poet Lipsitz a Black p s desegregation effort — the first voluntary desegregation movement in the nation. The screening w ll be followed by a panel discussion featuring those f the filmmakers as well as other experts. Sat. Nov 6, 2-4 p.m. free Berkeley Public Library Camera Branch 2090 Kittredge S Berkeley 510-981-6100 Boalt Hall 510-642-0414 y org

Crowd Work Crowdsourcing, Ecology and Spirituality: Can Crowds Alone Save the Earth? The author of Ecotopia and *Ecotopia Emerging* discusses the relationship between policy spirituality and activism in the environmental movement. Wed Nov 3 7:30-8 p.m., $10 donation requested. Berkeley Women's Community Church 941 The Alameda, Berkeley 510-526-3305

The Evolution of Green Chemistry Lecture on a about the relationship between chemistry and environmental and human health. Sat. Nov 11 6-8 p.m. free UC Berkeley Extension 1995 University Ave. Berkeley 510-642-4111 extension.berkeley.edu/

George Saur The journalist, author, and filmmaker will screen and discuss two of his films, *The Gaza Fixer* and *Five Seconds in Russia*. Tue. Nov. 5 6 p.m., free UC Berkeley North Gate Library 1925 North Gate Hall Berkeley 510 642-0808 normalion.berkeley.edu

Mother Activists, "The Prison Angel" The man and activist, who devotes his lives in Tijuana Mexico's La Mesa Prison to a means of serving the prison population and drawing attention to their plight speaks and screens a documentary as part of Cinebeat@ Work's breakfast speaker series. Tue. Nov. 9 7-8:30 a m 826-825 Cole Campus Country Club 711 Silver Lane Dr Danville 925-735-8300 Crow Canyon.org

Air Rescue: Alternate America's Wars in the Muslim World Thu Nov 4 7:30-9:30 p m 510-845 Hillside Club 2286 Cedr St Berkeley 510-848-3227 HillsideClub.org

Past Reference: Researching The New Abolitionists The UC Berkeley architecture professor discusses the importance of, and new approaches to sustainable building labor. Nov. 8 12-1:15 p.m., free 554 Sutardo Hall UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley

LITERARY EVENTS

Andy Selsberg Presenting he children's book by—Rosa Where's the Big Bird? Sa Nov 6 11 a m Mrs. Indelicato's 2904 Cu ningham Berkeley 510-704-6722 Mrs.Indelicato.com

Bay Area Poets Breakfast Book Schmoh First Saturday of every month 9 a m free Strawberry Creek Lodge 1327 Addison St., Berkeley 510-841-8383

Berkeley Book Club Reading and discussing *The World Peace Diet: Eating for Spiritual Health and Social Harmony* by Will Tuttle First Monday of every month, 8 p.m. First Thursday of every month, 8 p.m. Continuum Through Dec. 31 Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley 510-841-4824 Pages.shop.boat.net/bbc

Dutterwise: Mother Reading from her novel, *After the Fall*, Fri. Nov. 5, 7 p.m. free.

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1. Loetz Czech Art Glass Iridescent Purple Vase. Estimate: $700/900
2. Upper Sepik River hand drum (kundu) Estimate: $1,500/2,000
3. Carl Heiky (American, 1908 - 1973) Abstract color field, Oil on board Estimate: $1,500/2,000

Estate Auction & Appraisal Events: 275 Todd Street, Alameda, CA 94501
Annex Auction: 1951 Monarch Street, Building 25 Alameda, CA 94501

Bond #7004464

PICKS

David Jedeikin

Dorothy, part of his liver to a team-to-be-determined gave **David Jedeikin** good reason to set off around the world. At **Pegasus Books** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Nov. 4, Jedeikin reads *Wonder the Rainbow*, his memoir with ukulele, on months spent "Bushpecking" bush packing while electronically equipped — across 25 countries, sampling the gay nightlife and seeking his roots. 7:30 p.m. free. PegasusBooks.com. *Annalé Rufus*

Miles Corwin

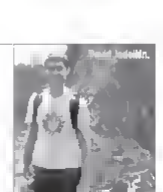
Awarded — in a 7 *Los Angeles Times* crime reporter **Miles Corwin** threw up in his work while writing his debut novel, *Kind of Blue*. At **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Nov. 2, he reads from this thriller in which a legendary former cop is murdered and insolent cop, an introvert detective who had retired a year earlier in shame over a stain witness, returns and strives to solve the crime. 4 p.m. free. MrsDalloways.com. *A.R.*

Recycling Center Lecture

Set to be demolished and replaced next year the **El Cerrito Recycling Center** is one of the West Coast's oldest municipal recycling centers — and it began as a young man it grew drums, decades ahead of its time. On Saturday, Nov. 6 in the council chambers of **El Cerrito City Hall** (10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito), recycling center cofounder **Gregg Cook** lectures on its history, then leads an informative tour of the center 2 p.m., free. El Cerrito.org. *A.R.*

Maya Christina Gonzalez

In **Maya Christina Gonzalez**'s books, **My Colors, My World/Mis Colores, Mi Mundo**, a little girl named Maya is and when's smart color makes everything look beige. But a hard helps her discover purple flowers, pink clouds, and blank hair. This author/illustrator of many books for children reads for young fans at the Oakland Public Library's **Cesar Chavez Branch** (1390 E. 12th St., Oakland) on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m., free. OaklandPublicLibrary.org. *A.R.*



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A Great Good Place for Books, 8120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-369-8210. GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com.

Chad Sweeney Reading and signing his poetry collections, *Parable of Hate* and *Seek and Arranging the Bones*. Mon., Nov. 7, 7 p.m. The Cat Store, East Bay Library, 5980 Colton Blvd. Free. Keyword: 877-668-1888.

Clare Cooper Marcus Signing and discussing her new book, *Sona Dreaming: The Healing Power of Place*. Tue., Nov. 8, 2 p.m. free. Gamin Books, 2716 Village Sq., Suite 125-254. 754-6, GamaBooks.com.

Cooper Union and Susan Kosh Presenting *The Wild Table*. Sun., Nov. 7, 11 a.m. Free. Albany Library, 1249 Marin Ave. Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Crowding Wall Presenting his new book, *The Front Way Around*. The Passages of Joshua Norton. Wed., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave. Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Cynthia Kadohata Reading from her prospective debut collections, *The Thief*. Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-1326. PegasusBooks.com.

First Person Singular Dramatic Readings Short local actors read short stories. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-1326. PegasusBooks.com.

First Tuesdays A monthly open and with Bohemian readers and/or a bookable pool. First Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. free. Albany Library, 1249 Marin Ave. Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Gerding Wall Presenting his new book, *The Front Way Around, The Passages of Joshua Norton*. Wed. Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave. Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Jaclyn Bess Reading as part of UC Berkeley's Lunch Poems Series. Thu., Nov. 8, 12:10-12:50 p.m. free. Morrison Room 101, Doe Library. Berkeley. 510-647-1137.

Ivy Waldman Presenting his new historical novel, *A Novelty Miracle*. Sat., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. free. A Great Good Place for Books, 8120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 888-339-5216. GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com.

Jeff Bezemer Signing and discussing his new book, *Shane Lake This, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.* free. Books 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9955. Books-inc.com.

John Feffer Presenting his new book, *Can Poetry Save the Earth? A Field Guide to Nature Poems*. Thu., Nov. 8, 7:30-9 p.m. free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Jonathan Kozol Presenting his new book, *Fire Drill: Language as the Edge of Science* and *Technology*. Thu., Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-6563. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Lisa Wolf Signing and discussing her novel, *Every a Girl*. Tue., Nov. 8, 6-7:45 p.m. free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8655. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

Lisa Bedon Bass Discussing her novel, *The Measure of His Grief*. Thu., Nov. 8, 7 p.m. free. read booksellers, 3630 Mountain Blvd., Suite D, Oakland. 925-735-3750. BookBooksellers.com.

Literary Liberty Bookworms Second and fourth Tuesdays of every month, 6:45 p.m. free. Martinez Library, 740 Court St., Martinez. 925-646-2866. www.martinezlibrary.org/bookworms

Kathleen Kolb and Gord Balloway Reading from their respective poetry collections. Thu., Nov. 8, 7:00 p.m. free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MrsDalloways.com.

Melanie Hoopman Presenting his new mystery *Walking in Bear Estate*. Fri., Nov. 5, 5:30 p.m. free. Barb Carmel, 3686 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. 510-654-7828. www.barbcarmelmail.com/

Steve Carlson Signing and discussing his new book, *Soul of Blue*. Sat., Nov. 6, 4 p.m. free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

New Audio Book Discussion If new however inferred through the idea you impressed with the listeners website an online reference librarian conversation and 6010 have access, search box, pull-down menus, and links. Daily, Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. oaklandlibrary.org.

Nina Lacour Presenting his young adult novel, *Hold Still*. Wed., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. free. Books 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9955. Books-inc.com.

Nonfiction Book Club Sign up for this program and read the latest Malcolm Gladwell's new book about books in debuts on January. To participate visit Oakland Public Library.org.

Oakland 5th Library Book Club Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. free. Piedmont Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Piedmont. 510-625-8434.

The Quotidienne Book Three Discussing *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. First Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. In Solitaire Alcove Library, 4780 Mayer Dr., Suite 108. create.cdlib.org/cdl/quotidienne/

Rich Maginnis Book Reading, hear and signing *The Groenwidger*. A novel. Wed. Nov. 3, 7 p.m. free. Berkeley Public Library, 1901 Russell St., Berkeley.

Science Fiction Express in Love Short film, teens Science Fiction Express in Love, supported by Raven Books's novel, *Invisible* by Gene Kahaka. Wed., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. Books, Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-525-7777. Booksinc.net.

Susan Straight and Javier Valdezes Reading from their One Candle Light *Blues*. Red Hook Road respectively. Fri., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Tony Iannone, Rafa Elias, Ironmus Fossi, and Tanya Kalfuss Reading from their respective poetry collections. Wed., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-1326. PegasusBooks.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Jodaido International Monthly Meeting All are welcome! Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Fossil, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9955. Books-inc.com.

Democracy for Jodaido Meeting The Alameda chapter invites everyone to attend its monthly meeting for food, drink, and liberal and progressive politics. Register at DFA's meeting room. First Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Peace Palace, 2855 Telegraph Square Dr., Alameda. 510-864-7827. PeacePalace.com

Food Bank Workshop for Jodaido Food Bank monthly Members Bi Alameda County Community Food Bank representative shows how to apply for food stamps. Alameda-very Second Tuesday of every month, 2:30-4:30 p.m. free. Alameda Public Library, Ruban Branch, 3008 Ruban St., Suite 5, Rutland. 510-238-7541. carlsubfriends.org.

Food Not Bombs Second Jodaido Planning meeting for the upcoming and ongoing Food Not Bombs events. First Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., Free Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-6752.

Foster Care and Adoption Introductory Workshop Information workshop about the process and the experience of adopting a child from foster care. Second Tuesday of every month, 1-3 p.m. free. AASK Adjust a Special Kid, 2141 Edgewater Dr. Suite 103, Oakland. 510-553-1748 x 12. AASK.org.

Free Shred, Paperwork, and Grievance Jodaido Registration documents about true wrongs of workers pieces and chemicals and they ways to wrench their use and prohibitions have affected disease. Second Saturdays 1:30-3 p.m. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

Home Safety for the Jodaido Homeless Presentation for workers fundraising on various topics of holiday safety, including fire safety and poisoning issues. With refreshments. Mon., Nov. 6, 6-8 p.m. Free Jodaido 4th Senior Center, 2351 Gregory Ln., Pleasant Hill. 925-798-1160.

Living on a Glass Income Workshop for senior adults, and caregivers, about how to live within a fixed income. Led by Peggy Sweet, Education Specialist with Money Management International. Thu., Nov. 4, 1:30 p.m. free. Albany Library, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Medicare Workshop for Self-Represented Litigants Jean Stevens, Alameda Superior Court of Alameda County explains the medicare process and how it can help your case. Thu., Nov. 8, 6-7 p.m., 555-580 Alameda County Law Library, 125 12th St., Jodaido.

Panel Discussion: The Uniformity We Are For With several faculty members from a diverse group of conversation, including gay, preserve and future economy-tions in the American university and its purposes. Fri., Nov. 9, 8:30-5 p.m. Pauley Ballroom, UC Berkeley.

Berkeley 510-842-6000. Berkeley.edu

Sex Positive Discussion Group With group discussions, partner writing exercises, storytelling and more, focused on the goal of personal and business joy positivity. Everyone welcome, activity supplies provided. Second Tuesday of every month, 8-10 p.m. 1910 Wisteria Rotary, 2708 Russell Ave., Berkeley. 510-223-8707. www.myspace.com/rotaxcommunity

Voices of Faith Against Hunger and Homelessness Interfaith unity and gathering in support of faith-based conference to unite problems. With live music, breakfast, and a keynote speech from K. Schultz Western Regional Institute of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. San., Nov. 7, 8:30-9 a.m. free. St. Paul United Methodist Church, Berkeley. 510-848-2650. AME-Church.com

SPOKEN WORD

80s at Night Eighties various and TV shows, plus 2 for $5 well drinks. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. free. Pegasus Lounge, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Pegasus-Lounge.com.

Bonzo Radio/Free! Spanish / English Bilingual event show on the intersection of Black Latinos and Spanish culture as they intersect with Hip-Hop culture. Sat., Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. $10, La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Fifth Tuesdays Monthly open mic with featured readers and/or a featured poet. First Thursday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Albany Library, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

Music Bank A night of poetry and spoken word. Thursdays, 8:30-11 p.m., donations requested. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd. Oakland. 510-533-6629.

Social & Spoken Word Open Mic First Sunday of every month 4-8 p.m. Free Cerro Vino Wine 1332-B Park St., Alameda. 510-769-8418. Creativeatista.us

Kids Write Revival Featuring performance poets Ana Maginni Brenck Brown, and Nancy Wakefield. Tue. Nov. 8 10-10:45 p.m. $12. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Kids Write Shower Featuring performance poets Ana Maginni Brenck Brown, and Sunday Wakefield. Tue. Nov. 8 10-10:45 p.m. $12. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Locos, Grooves W/ Cheeseisha, ridge, & Jim Martin. Fridays, 7:30 p.m., free. Ghost of Dove, Fairmont Town Center, Oakland. 510-430-9821.

Workshop of Word Board Bi weekly spoken-word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 7 p.m. free. Cafe Milano, Fremont, history/workbook, Mediterranean Cafe, 3175 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-549-1120

Written Word Art Visual and Oral History Night All performers except for guests speakers will be allotted 3-8 minutes to tell their stories in present their opinions. Signup begins at 6:15. First and Third Friday in every month, 6:30 p.m. WordsBetweenVoices@Live.com. Cafe Ephemeris, 1786 Solano Ave., San Leandro. 510-351-8004.



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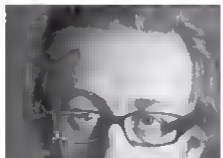
BODY&SOUL

The End of the World os We Know It

These are the "Edge Times," says cult figure author Daniel Pinchbeck.

Shamans walk among us. So do prophets, visionaries, mystics, and people with extrasensory perception. The West's refusal to heed these folks is **Daniel Pinchbeck** — especially in an era that he dubs not the End Times but the "Edge Times."

"Many factors such as 'peak oil' climate change, species extinction, and the melting dawn of the global financial system indicate we are in a mega-crisis, and it is extraordinary that the Classic Mayan pinpointed this time as the crux of a transformation from 13,000 years ago " said Pinchbeck, whose new book ***Notes from the Edge Times*** is a collection of dispatches to a world he believes is about to change beyond all recognition. "They had a precise awareness of natural and cosmic



Daniel Pinchbeck. Tristan Savatier

cycles indicated by their extraordinarily accurate calendars."

The ancient Mayas "used shamanic ritual to attain non-ordinary or visionary states of consciousness," Pinchbeck said. "I propose that this was a kind of experimental scientific method that may have allowed them to understand aspects of their far-distant future, which is now our present."

A Manhattan intellectual whose parents were abstract painter Peter Pinchbeck and Beat Generation memoirist (and **Jack Kerouac**'s ex) Joyce Johnston, Pinchbeck is a cult figure and a spokesman for the otherworldly. Based on his own experiences among tribal tribes that use mind-altering substances for sacred purposes, his previous books *Breaking Open the Head: A Psychedelic Journey into the Heart of Contemporary Shamanism* and *2012: The Return of Quetzalcoatl* beat the paranormal-a hip latter-day legitimacy.

Readers devoured his revelations about crop circles, the Mesoamerican serpent god Quetzalcoatl-Brazil's ayahuasca-quaffing Santo Daime religion and other wonders "probably for the same reason I did: because they need to reconnect to source and because they find themselves spiritually unfulfilled by their culture and by the various religious and traditional offerings available to them," said Pinchbeck, who believes that Quetzalcoatl has spoken to him directly

"There is currently a cultural reconsideration of shamanism and the psychedelic experience taking place on many levels of our society — the *New York Times* recently had a page-one story on psychedelic medicine, and many studies are underway. As I discuss in my work, I see the visionary plants like ayahuasca and psilocybin to be teachers who seek to convey messages to human beings about how to reconnect to the natural world and how to become healthy citizens not of any country but of a planetary ecology "

Ashley Hearne of Pinchbeck's books and his webmagazine RealitySandwich.com is the increasingly popular theory that the ancient Mayan calendar predicted a global cataclysm in 2012. Pinchbeck believes that this transition will entail the death of money as we know it and a shift of focus from quantitative progress to qualitative participation. Art will be revalued as not just a leisure activity, but essential to what makes us human. In the new paradigm we will co-create," said the author, who will be at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, November 7 3 p.m. free. DieselBookstore.com

— Annell Rufus

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Experts-Based Fitness Classes Wednesdays 12-1 p.m. 510 Capoeira Movement Academy. 4231 Piedmont Ave. Oakland. 510-655-4297. Mc.dlgo.org.

Coping and Thriving After a Diagnosis of Human Call 510-869-6833 to register Centered and Healthy Living 9 every month 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. free Alta Bates Medical Center Summit Campus 450 30th St. Oakland. 510-869-8735

Free Health Seminar Health Aids Health and Avoiding Dementia like traditional Chinese medicine 6 maintain cognitive functioning even in old age. With Dr. John Peters. LAc. and Mary Zallinger. LAc. Reservations required call 510-814-8800 Sun Nov 7 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Rhythmia Cultural Vision. 2553 Blanding Ave Alameda 510-865-5000, rhythmia.org.

Nourishing the Mind-Body Connection Four-class workshop for cancer Seminar Call 510-869-6833 for information Second and Fourth Tuesday 9 every month, 1:15-2:45 p.m. free Alta Bates Medical Center Summit Campus. 450 30th St. Oakla n. 510-869-8735

Nutrition Essentials for Everyone: 8 lessons 8 Eating for Health and Vitality Workshop covering nutrition issues, with cooking demonstrations and group discussion. Register at BaumanCollege.org. Wednesdays 6-9 p.m. Continues through Nov 18 $495. Bauman College 1918 Grayson St., Berkeley. 510-540-7040, BaumanCollege.org.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Biblical Ecology & Sound Health for Women Led by Jennifer Bowman. Mondays. 7-9 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22 $180. Berkeley Fellowship 11 Williams Universities. 1923 Cedar St. Berkeley. 510-841-4574. Pager: 5pcgbcal.net/plus.

Prophetic vs. Symbolic: Human Limits Intel the difference between these two kinds of dreams, and how to harness the power of each. Thu. Nov. 4, 6:30-8 p.m. $15. Angel Light Books. 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Oakland.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Buddhist Meditation with Ginny Lin Two-day workshop exploring a Women of Tibetan Buddhist Bonpo-style techniques. Nov. 6-7 $100-$140 Siam Yin Training Center 4701 18th St. Berkeley.

Chant Day @ Jewish Learning With Women on the Talmud and other talents taken by local Rabbis and academics. Sun. Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free Jewish Community Center of the East Bay. 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

Introduction to Meditation and Buddhist Mindfulness A six-week course focusing on students like myself. zero prayer meditation, and more. Wednesdays 1:30-3 p.m. Continues through Dec. 12 free. Center of Light Oakland. 2944 76th Ave. Oakland. 510-635-4286.

Shmajid Jewish Living Free 8 p.m.-close

Series of workshops on incorporating Jewish principles and daily life, led by Rabbi Bridget Wynne. First class 8 free with an obligation to continue. Buddhist fee for the whole course is $180. No knowledge necessary. Sun. Nov. 7 1:30-3 p.m., free for first class. $180 to continue. Jewish Gateways. 409 Liberty St. El Cerrito

Read It for Meditating Buddhism Through the Teachings of the Two-class about the West African spiritual tradition Ifa. No prior knowledge or experience necessary. each class limited to 20 participants. Every Fri. Friday 6:30-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 16. $11 per class or 145 for series. East Bay Healing Collective. 1940 Harrison Ave. Berkeley.

Transgender Religious Women Human 2010 Two-day conference. Sing the theme of "transcending tolerance and envisioning faith communities through inclusion," with keynote speaker Rabbi Beth of the Memorial Center for Transgender Equality registration fee covers meals. Sun. Nov. 5-6, 8:25-5:40. Pacific School of Religion. 1798 Scenic Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-8208, PSR.edu.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Donation-Based Prenatal Yoga Mondays. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Donation 6 month. Dec. 27 donation. Ninaya Center. 2698 University Ave. Berkeley. 510-704-1380. NinayaCenter.org.

Free Yoga Women Post Wednesday of every month. 5 p.m.-8:45 p.m. free. Yoga Center. 2698 University Ave. Berkeley. 510-704-1380. NinayaCenter.org.

PICKS

Kirtan Session

According to followers of this ancient practice, kirtan — Sanskrit chanting as a form of worship and meditation — opens the heart, focuses the mind, and reaffirms commitment. At **Yoga Manjala** (4859 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on the second Friday of every month, including Friday, Nov. 5, classically trained composer/pianist/violinist/vocalist **Sean Feit** leads a kirtan session and Dharma teaching, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. donation. Yogamanjala.com.

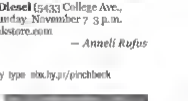
— Annell Rufus

Diwali Celebration

Church is known to teach the world about culture, **Khel Mela** s performance group whose tools include puppetry, arts and crafts, storytelling, and song. At the **Fremont Public Library** (3090 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont) on Saturday, Nov. 6, members of Khel Mela lead a **family-friendly celebration of Diwali**, the joyful festival of light during which Hindus and Sikhs relish the victory of good over evil. 3 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org — *A.R.*

Buddhist Meditation Workshop

American Book Award-winning playwright and poet **Genny Lim** facilitates a **Buddhist-meditation workshop** on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 6-7, at the **Quan Yin Training Center** (4701 18th St., Berkeley). The workshop will focus on maintaining self-awareness and equanimity as well as learning tools for subject meditation, breath control, anxiety reduction, and the transformation of negative into positive. 6:30



Joyce Lim Johnston

a m. $100-$140. BirthySemiNarz.com — *A.R.*

Diwali Celebration

Said to be the oldest surviving classical Indian dance form, Odissi uses eye and hand movements and complex footwork to narrate tales and retell sacred stories. At the Oakland Public Library's **Golden Gate Branch** (5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland) on Tuesday, Nov. 9, dancers from the **Jyoti Sahi Mandir** troupe perform as part of a **Diwali festival-of-lights celebration** featuring Indian refreshments. 6:30 p.m. free. Oaklandlibrary.org — *A.R.*

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DEMOCRACY ON EARTH, IN THE SKY

For the week of November 3-9 2010

By Raffee Finn

In writing this column a week before the writing after which means I have no idea what the outcome of the mid term election will be and no idea what the general mood w — other than knowing that I m side is happy. What I do know is that no matter who the victor may be, we still have to live and work together despite our polarized points of view. We are still in the wake of the last two years of the Saturn/Uranus opposition, and the power of its effect is still disturbing political economic and cultural attitudes. Again no matter who wins, our ability to work toward common goals has never been more needed and has never depended less upon a specific leader or political agenda. Yes the party in power has clout but the influence of special interests on both sides of the aisle has been so abused that it s only a matter of time before those interests disintegrate under the weight of their own mendacious intent. The people will always have the power to bring change and, Pollyannaish aside it is only a matter of time before we learn to trust for our common good.

And speaking of Pollyanna, there is good planetary news to report This week. Mercury trines the ongoing Jupiter/Uranus conjunction, stimulating shrewd intuition and adventure thinking. Translation: Expect snappy smart repartee, as well as a clear grasp of what is needed to move forward from both a personal and collective perspective This positive Mercury/Jupiter/Uranus bundle can be put to good use formulating long term plans and strategies for handling a variety of circumstances, especially s tuations that always seem to shift on e mon nt s notice At the same time, because Uranus has recently gone direct in its own system, this bundle also affects sleep patterns — so don't be surprised if your body needs fewer hours than what s more This bundle is so highly charged that there s also the distinct possibility of confusing excitement for anxiety or anxiety for excitement Although it won't be easy, try getting grounded and staying that way before you make impulsive moves you might later regret.

Late to the day on Sunday November 7 Venus, retrograde since October 8 moves back into the Sign of Libra As Venus revisits and in the next several weeks lingers on the degrees it occupied from September 8 through 8, we will revisit and linger on themes set in motion at that time, especially relationships and financial issues. As trying as some of this retrograde may be, it s always a good idea to reflect and refine.

The ancient Mesopotamians believed that planetary motion returned messages from the gods and that if those messages could be deciphered accurately, the long world live in attunement with the divine and all could prosper. At the risk of condensing hundreds of factors and thousands of years ... astrology eventually became a democracy This sky belongs to everyone. Maybe it s time to agree that the Earth belongs to all of us as well.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that too.

ARIES Even though patience is not your strong suit meditation to put one foot in front of the other Within a very short time, you'll be surprised at just how much progress you have made and will continue to make.

TAURUS There are opportunities to improve work related associations but to take make the most of this moment you'll have to put aside pride and commit to an equal playing field. Stay open to the possibility of positive compromise.

GEMINI Give yourself permission to stretch your professional wings and to try something new that will take you beyond your comfort zone. I m not necessarily suggesting danger but I am advising you to challenge yourself

CANCER There s no need to push yourself to hi ori and about So rather than feeling guilty about a need to hibernate have at it. Ready your supplies, get comfy on the couch and just rest and relax

LEO The upshaus is still on conversation but this week, you re far more inclined toward kind words than you are toward fixed opinions. Use this inclination to compassion to mind important issues

VIRGO I know you might need short term financial relief but if you review your overall financial situation with an eye toward long term improvement you might find an immediate remedy

LIBRA Sometimes it s easier to wear your heart on your sleeve than it is to hide your feelings, so rather than pretending you don't care, get deeply in touch with how much you do care and post how much that matters.

SCORPIO It s always wise to reflect on situations that make you uncomfortable and disturb your equilibrium — but it s not a good idea to brood excessively Instead of obsessive, mulling, make a plan for positive action

SAGITTARIUS Allow interactions with friends or associates to lift you spirits and renew your enthusiasm It s not that you've lost your joy, but feeding you innate optimism fire with convivial exchanges will work wonders for your heart

CAPRICORN Stay open to the possibility that a radical shift in either the structure of your career or your attitude about it could promote positive change — even if what is proposed requires rearranging your role

AQUARIUS There s money in those ideas that seem to flicker across you imagination screen so rather than dismiss them as outrageous, write them down You may not have time to implement them now but you could later

PISCES Breathe deeply allow your breath to find its own rhythm and as you move back into your body allow yourself to experience a profound state of peace and gratitude. ●

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For More Info
Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9284 write PO Box 343 New York, NY 10025 visit AquariumAge com or e-mail RAffee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2010 by Raffee Finn

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FOOD & DRINK



Unlike at other chic black-tiled spots, the food is abundant enough to last a while. Chris Duffey

AN OPEN SECRET

Hidden inside a theater lobby, Lot 68 has a full bar and bistro-style meals.

By Rufus

You've passed it a thousand times without seeing it.

You pride yourself on knowing the names of every downtown Berkeley restaurant and bar, but you have never heard of this one. Yet it thrives. **Lot 68** is like Platform 9 3/4 in the Harry Potter series: hiding in plain sight. But you can't get $3 well drinks, Caprese sandwiches, barbecued-chicken quesadillas, New York cheesecake or baked sweet potato fries on Platform 9 3/4.

Lacking street access and even a window to the world outside, Lot 68 occupies a space set, polyp-like, off the **Shattuck Cinemas** lobby. One of its two doors is on the box office side; the other on the theater side. You literally can't even see it from the sidewalk, but once inside the lobby, striding past Yogurtland's side entrance, then deeper past shimmery walls lined with framed movie posters, Deeper. Entering a movie theater always feels like entering Wonderland anyway, so by the time you reach Lot 68, you're already a little blitzed.

It looks like all the cool restaurants and bars — and that's exactly what it is, but with some tucked-under-a-theater-lobby quirks. Its entire northern wall is glass. Massive walls stretch to a matte black ceiling lightened by glass bricks. Dark wooden chairs frame tables, soon party-size ones will emanate. A flat black sofa beckons. Stools line a full bar framed by two huge flat-screen TVs showing sports. Rows of glowing bottles rise up from behind. The bar's sleek wooden front is covered in a mosaic of sapphire- and garnet-hued squares. The whole scene is ruthlessly clean. On screen, athletes sprint; skid; collide.

Brought by a beaming waiter, a big, laminated American bistro menu offers burgers and sandwiches, pizzas and salads, fifteen beers (including **Widmun Hefezwelzen** on draft, **Trumer Pils** and **Unibroun Blanuh De Charebly**) and sixteen wines, including **Mumm Jubilnum Champagne** — as do all the cool restaurants and bars. Just as at other chic black-tiled spots, the food arrives on huge square, snow-white crockery, with giant square-edged silverware on white napkins nearly as big as pillowcases. Food at Lot 68 is as attractive as its counterparts at other chic black-tiled spots — artful arrays, daring diagonals, juicy produce, authentic cheese — yet costs only two-thirds as much. And the servings are bigger at Lot 68.

Finding yourself nearly alone there at 5 p.m. you think. How sad. An hour hence, the place is packed. Every barstool is full. New arrivals hail the waiting bartenders and fellow regulars. Patrons josh, whoop, embrace. It feels like the livliest place in town but also like Rinbe, half hotspot and half invisible, a rollicking secret. Don't pity Lot 68, its legend spreads by word of mouth, and word of mouth is getting louder.

Well-drink specials (sadly, they're not always $3) correspond with important local-team games. While this plan serves dinner only six days a week, Sunday brunch accompanies morning NFL football. Cal games draw their own crew of regulars. Bar drinks can be brought into the theater's designated "Liquidity" screenings.

Framed movie posters on the walls and a **Francis Ford Coppola "Director's Cut" Zinfandel** on the wine list are sparse nods to the cinema setting, and to the fact that **Landmark Theatres** runs Lot 68, as it does fourteen other bars/cafes in its cinemas nationwide. Lot 68 is the only one of these with a full bar *and* a full menu, thanks largely to bar manager **John James**, who has transformed Lot 68's menu and ambiance significantly since it opened last year.

"It was really light and bright. It felt kind like a coffee shop, not like a bar," said James, who has worked with **Wolfgang Puck** and managed **Maxwell's** in Oakland before landing at Landmark. He expanded the liquor and wine selection, altered the lighting and hours, and internet-enabled a computer, among by adding gyros, Greek salad, a BBQ brisket sandwich, a fajita/roasted red pepper pizza, satisfyingly well-stuffed quesadillas, plump, crunchy vegetarian eggrolls with sweet and sour sauce, and more.

Sporting a scullery with a tripartite stove-oven-refrigerated-prep-area, an oven not yet a full kitchen, save for an extension of the concession stand, a step up from the popcorn machine, James said. Granted, a big step, where rich chocolate bundt cake with a "molten" chocolate center is an thin dessert list.

Dishes here aren't made from scratch, but assembled in-house using mainly fresh ingredients with startlingly lush effects. Arriving at Lot 68 parbaked, the pizza dough is finished off in the oven to make thick-crusted pies — here in paper thin pizza town — lavishly messy with hand-grated cheese and pre-made sauce, a perfect match for strong drinks, loud friends and your favorite televised game. Ciabatta comes parbaked, too, from Los Angeles' **La Brea Bakery**. On sandwiches here, they're tasty, chewy substantial and warm. Salads start with pre-torn spring mix and Romaine — but with lovely, even lovingly, additions: dried fruit candied walnuts and thinly sliced, perfectly ripe Asian pear in the Landmark Salad. Kalamata olives and piquant feta cheese in the Greek. Dressings are served on the side.

A family with small kids and grandparents. A pair of women clearly on a date. Men wearing flip-flops and work hats: a woman in a Super Bowl jacket ("This is a sports town," James said.) The waiter comes around to ask how you're how the food is and whuh teams you favor. Fan o'minute you think. This is Berkeley, why are strangers being so nice to me? Unlike at other thin black-collared spots, the food is abundant enough to last a while. All this better, because you want to stay, people are happy here in this softly glowing cocoon this cheese is thunk. The ammn is thuck. The salads are huge. The drinks are iced. People are laughing. ●

Lot 68 Lounge
2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94704
510-644-2392 or LandmarkTheatres.com/Lot68/Lot68.htm
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Hours: Mon.-Thu. 4-11 p.m., Fri. 4 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 10 a.m.-11 p.m.
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Sample Menu

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Vegetarian Egg Rolls	$8
Greek Salad	$6
Hamburger	$7
Quesadilla	$7

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

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[illegible] 1800 [illegible] Ave., Albany, 510-525-[illegible]. (Breakfast/Brunch/California/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
[illegible] 1525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-[illegible]-3433. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$
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[illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible]. (Nepalese) $$
Kensington [illegible] Pub 289 Colusa Ave., Kensington, 510-524-[illegible]. (English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$
Lao/Thai Kitchen 1490 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-558-3276. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Burmese) $
[illegible] Place 1477 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible]. (Chinese) $$
[illegible] 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2547. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
[illegible] 1131 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-[illegible]. (Korean) $$
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BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

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[illegible] 2211 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-[illegible]. (American/English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$
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[illegible] Cafe 2554 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $
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[illegible] Thai Cafe [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
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BERKELEY-NORTH

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Cafe [illegible] 1130 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
[illegible] Restaurant 1540 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible]. (Mexican) $-$$
Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 (restaurant)/510-548-5049 (cafe). (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$
[illegible] 1[illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-[illegible]. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$
[illegible] Kitchen 1[illegible] [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-528-[illegible]. (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
[illegible] 1[illegible] Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-843-[illegible]. (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
[illegible] Cafe 1[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2233. (Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch) $
[illegible] Kitchen 1[illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-521-5331. (Vegetarian/Vegan/American) $
[illegible] Cafe 1[illegible] Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible]. (American) $
[illegible] 1[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible]. (Mexican) $
Top dog 2[illegible] Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 1[illegible] Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2[illegible] Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
La [illegible] 2[illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Mexican) $
House of India 2[illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Indian/Pakistani) $$
Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1672. (Middle Eastern) $
[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible]. (American/Russian/Brunch/Diner) $
[illegible] 2[illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible]. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
[illegible] 2[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Greek/Turkish/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
[illegible] Indian Cuisine 2[illegible] Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-841-[illegible]. (Indian/Pakistani) $
[illegible] Restaurant 2[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$
[illegible] Bar & Cafe [illegible] Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-549-[illegible]. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
[illegible] & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2[illegible] Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
Cafe [illegible] 2[illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Chinese) $-$$
[illegible] 2[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (American) $
Shattuck Kitchen [illegible] Shop 2[illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Bakery) $$
[illegible] Bakeshop 2[illegible] [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Bakery/California Cuisine) $-$$
Top dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-704-9900. (California Cuisine) $$
The Bread Workshop 1[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Gourmet) $
[illegible] [illegible] St., Emeryville, 510-547-[illegible]. (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Poisan

3534 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley
510-649-1039 The pits a must part of the concept at Berkeley's latest upscale glamorama. Hearty paninis (flatiron, serrano plus antipasti including risotto fritters and braised tripe with polenta, and a handful of entrées complement slender toast tiles. Tuscan wood-fired pizzas topped with nontraditional ingredients like sweet corn, calamari, arugula, and aioli. The exposed brick-polish vibrant setting is casual airy and a no-tie zone. There's a lovely patio out back, and the house cocktails are dazzlingly inventive. Brief, serviceable wine list $$$

Humo Amigos

836 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
650-324-4866 This handsome addition to the Fourth Street

wall-and-oil painting depleting Nepal's lofty peaks sports a palm-himbaed, umbrella-lubbed open-air courtyard out back. But the homesick Himalayans and stranded-at-sea-level Indians among Humo Amigos's already loyal legion of regulars, the documents rites that owner Mahnu Bhandari sometimes screens here slide high-altitude memories fed by gorgeous portraits of well-evoked Indian standards. Those include vegetable biryani, tandoori chicken, and rose-water-perfumed gulab jamun along with hearty thumbs, and (usually) hot capsicum pickle. Knowledgeable lowerers such as Kabuki Jacobs, mamas, and often no cashier $

Zuti

1820 Fourth St., Berkeley
510-644-0444 This handsome addition to the Fourth Street

shopping mecca serves imaginative regional Mediterranean dishes crafted from freshly plucked local ingredients. Chorizo-stuffed squid, smoky lamb meatballs, thin-crusted pizzas with fresh mozzarella, and solo dishes of greens, lentils, beets, and polenta are among the menu's standouts; other dishes are on the seasonal side. Get the seasonal greens for dessert and one of the yummy, house cocktails (the mint-topped bar sidewalk seating and retractable skylight, classy yet inviting amber/glass/polished-wood/earth-toned setting $$$

Pizza Italiano Qualita

[illegible] St., Berkeley
510-[illegible]-7706. Owner Nick Rivelesi grew up in Turin del Greco, near Naples, and is on a mission to bring authentic Italian cafe culture Stateside. For him, it's all about the fruitiness. In the house bread below PIQ (pronounced "pock") master bakers hooked by former owner star Ruth Varga start work at 11 a.m. every day $$

and use imported machines to create an ever-shifting array of sweets and savories stuffed and topped with seasonal produce, meats, eggs, and cheese. Jolly fiancés Valdeluna's pocket-like focaccetti (gleaming panini), savory brioche surprisingly light sabayon, Renaissance chewy and sometimes melt-in-your-mouth Gnu-crusted pears — and that's before we reach the pastry case, which holds glorious fruit tarts, cookies, cakes, and m. $

Farmers Market Bistro

[illegible] St. [illegible], San [illegible]-8780. Despite its unassuming humble ambience, this Old Oakland eatery serves several impressively inventive, attractively presented examples of California cuisine. The seared ahi salad brims with thick filets of blackened tuna, the wild kung salmon burger is tasty, tender, and juicy, and the Muscovy duck with squash and sweet potatoes is tender and smoky. The flourless chocolate cake has lots of fudgy flavor but the homemade pinolillo cream tastes like freezer burn. All produce is sourced from farmers markets in Oakland and San Francisco while the meat, poultry, and seafood are organically raised. $$

Commonwealth Cafe & Pub

[illegible] Ave., Oakland.
510 6[illegible] Ahn, chair
co-owns the [illegible]Wealth with her husband Eric Jeffryes and her husband Kelsie Adair. Soul who learned to appreciate simple treat and cooking in his grandmother's kitchen. He prepares it keen in the form of English-style breakfasts and pub grub with a cool California twist. Sliced-cut oats, beans and toast, egg-and-chutney sandwiches, and the Elle signature brown gaiters. Kettled beers from the UK including such notables as Tweasel Thistle Wee Heavy Dragon and Scottish Oat from Scotland — join several more on tap, including local varieties from Oakland's Linden Street Brewery $

$$

Tapas Tapas! 2500G Hampton Blvd (Hayward) 510-785-8133 (Closed) **$$**
The Hayward Grand 20817 Mission Blvd (Hayward) 510-727-3622 (Asian/Indian/Seafood, Sun Brunch) **$$$**
L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 27388 Hesperian Blvd (Hayward) 510-782-0497 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) **$**
Station House 20500 B Hesperian Blvd (Hayward) 510-478-6723 (Filipino/Southeast Asian) **$$**
The Mediterranean Grand 825 B St., Hayward 510-538-9711 (American/Diner) **$**
Nonnapaul 742 E St., Hayward 510-583-5444 (California/Diner/Mediterranean) **$$$**
Sam's Tapas Garden 16474 Hesperian Blvd. San Lorenzo 510-278-6330 (American/Diner) **$**
The Station's Grand 21853 Amador Blvd., Hayward 510-538-0308 (Korean) **$$**
Tacos Sushi 14214 E. 14th St. San Leandro 510-352-9445 (Japanese/Sushi) **$-$$**
Val's Burgers 2115 Kelly St., Hayward 510-538-8121 (American/Diner) **$**
We're Restaurant 21 Peralta St., San Leandro 510-351-6900 (Vietnamese) **$$**

LAMORINDA

Bo & Barbecue 3422 Mobile Blvd., Lafayette 925-283-4133 (Traditional/Organic/Sustainable) **$-$$**
Bound Bridge 20 Bryant Way, Orinda 925-254-2981 (American/Steak Houses) **$$-$$$**
Solange's Restaurant 1 Orinda Way, Orinda 925-253-8000 (Chinese) **$**
Lily's House 3595 Mobile Mobile Blvd., Lafayette 925-284-7500 (Chinese) **$$-$$$**
Metro Lafayette 3524 Mobile Mobile Blvd., Lafayette 925-284-4422 (Asian Fusion/Contemporary) **$$$**
Pizza Guys 3600 Mobile Mobile Blvd., Lafayette 925-299-9500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) **$$-$$$**
Restaurant Barbecana 360 Park St., Moraga 925-317-7692 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) **$$$**
Tamarindo 8 Rancho 3518 Mobile Blvd., Lafayette 925-284-8700 (Mexican) **$**

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Barcelona 55 Webster St. Sheldon 510-444-1233 (Basque/Spanish/Continental/Central America/Mexican) **$$$**
Chef Edwards' Bar-B-Que 1918 San Pablo Ave. Oakland 510-834-9410 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) **$-$$**
Chef Lee's 301 8th St., Sheldon 510-835-

R&C

Cam Lalisa 1895 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-558-7177 (Bakery/Mexican) **$**
High Rhoby 1853 Dwight Way, Berkeley 510-548-3382 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) **$$**
Kirbobo 1122 University Ave., Berkeley 510-841-9380 (Japanese Sushi) **$$**
Cocotte & Jones Barbeque 1600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510[illegible]-3861. (Barbecue) **$$**
Jimmy Bond's 1260 Sixth St., Berkeley 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) **$-$$**
Jane's Pasta 841 Carleton St., Berkeley 510-845-9904 (American) **$$$**
Kaiserau 1106 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3355 (Indian/Pakistani/Persian/Halal) **$**
Lake Bar Pho Pasteur 891 Ninth St., Emeryville 510-658-5016 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) **$-$$**
Priya Indian Bistro 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-644-3677 (Indian/Pakistani) **$-$$**
Scout's 3077 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville 510-541-9238 (Seafood/Soul Food) **$$**
Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-665-8811 (Japanese Bistro/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) **$$-$$$**
Zut! 1820 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-644-0444 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza/Spanish) **$$$**

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Italian's 4375G Clayton Rd., Concord 925-680-0158 (Peruvian/Quick American) **$-$$**
L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 600 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill 925) 685-3154 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) **$**
Bobby's Country Barbecue 2110 Bisby Lane, Concord. Concord 925-681-8200 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) **$$**
Las Manadas Market 1089 Ygnacio Dr., Concord, 925-685-1102 (Mexican) **$**
Taqueria El Gordo 286 San Ramo, Concord, 925-969-9578 (Mexican) **$**
Taqueria Los Tapas 2099 Monument Blvd., Suite C, Concord 925-681-4330 (Mexican) **$**
Shinsen Restaurant 3151 Salvio St., Suite 10, Concord 925-521-9016 (Italian) **$$-$$$**

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The Good Fish 2000 San Pablo Ave., Concord. 510-781-3263 (Mexican/Seafood) **$$$-$$$$**
Hana Japan 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-8222 (Deli/German/Austrian/Coffeehouse) **$$**
Kaisaku-Ya Richmond 510-464-3046 San Pablo Ave. E. Cerrito, 510-526-1878. (Japanese Sushi) **$-$$**
Wong Thai 11294 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-9368 (Southeast Asian/Thai) Entrees: $-$$
Marylee's Homestead Delights 1072 Spencer Ave. Suite F Hercules, 510-913-1109 (Filipino) **$**
Shinsen 1581 Barlows Ave., (Int. S.

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Bonbel 35339 Alvarado Niles Rd., Union City 510-441-1054 (Indian/Pakistani) **$-$$**
Kabobi Restaurant 3806 Washington Blvd. Fremont 510-979-9600 (Persian/Kabob/Middle Eastern) **$-$$**
L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 1000 Decoto Rd., Union City (510) 324-8858 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) **$**
Ramen Lab 39156 Paseo Padre Pkwy. Fremont, 510-797-7700 (Chinese/Noodles/Pakistani) **$-$$**
Shinsen 1581 Barlows Ave., (Int. S.

Shanima 5269 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-792-2900 (California Cuisine/Italian) **$$$**
Shinsen 39155 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont 510-794-8888 (Japanese/Sushi) **$$**
Sticky Sushi & Bento Plus 39155 Fremont Blvd. #H, Fremont, 510-623-9600 (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) **$**
Sun Tapas 3145 Peralta Rd., Tapas City, 510-915-9495 (Chinese) **$**
Thai's Hole Hot Pot Restaurant 40606 Mowry Ave., Newark, 510-792-2000 (Chinese) **$$**
Sutong Pan 37486 Fremont Blvd (Fremont 510-795-9200, (Hayward/Kabobi/Halal/Middle Eastern) **$$**

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

5 Ghost Cafe 1243 A St., Hayward, 510-582-2558 (French) **$$$**
Casalupo 1201 MacArthur Blvd San Leandro, 510-895-8088 (Asian Beauty/Tapas/Small Plates) **$$$**
Cherry Sunset 28053 Bernard Blvd Hayward 510-581-4063. (Indian/Pakistani) **$**
Festival & Moon Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward, (510) 538 3022 (Bosavona)









Fun and Frisky Bubbles

Three fine ten-dollar sparklers for the holidays.

On a Saturday night in October a group of us polled an our poshest frocks and sharpest suits and headed off to the Hi man Rights Campaign Gala in San Francisco's glitzy Fairmont Hotel. With the finicness of the evening and holidays coming up it seemed a fine time to try out three sparkling wines.

During what turned out to be a night of silliness and shenanigans I had my camera which contained the filming of an tasting (some might venture that was a good thing) but those are the sort of wild evenings you're often in for when drinking bubbly. Fortunately, we're (mostly) the better for it. Bit of a ring tailed tooter as my Southern friend Rass calls it.

Bubblies have come a long way baby, since the days of Cold Duck served in broad-bowled champagne saucers, the shape of which has been falsely attributed to the shape of Marie Antanette's breasts. I was looking for something really smashing sparklers rather than ones that creep out for the cover of orange juice so I headed for the **Wine Mine** (5427 Telegraph Ave. Oakland) which I already knew has a good selection.

The first we tasted was a Cava from Spain **Segura Viudas Brut Reserva ($8)** which was created from a blend of reserve and non-vintage wines and aged for at least three years. It's the one we often use for large parties at our house, or for mimosas and is very clean and delicate with a hint of yeast. It's not a big bubbly, but good enough to drink by itself.

Next came **Delmas Banquette de Limoux Cuvee Berlemi (2007)** from France ($9.99). It offered hints of green apple and lemon with a slight dryness and a creamy nuttiness at the finish. The bubbles caught our eye: they were small, persistent, and very festive. I can see why this wine inspired one British journalist to ask, "And why is it, did you say, that champagnes so expensive?" You can see why it is so complex: These people have been making bubbles for ages. Limoux was the first in the world to produce bottle-fermented sparkling wine some 157 years before Dom Pérignon took credit for the discovery.

The third was a **Charles De Fère Blanc de Blancs Brut ($9.99)** from the Loire Valley in France. Made from Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc it's pale-gold in color and has tropical fruit aromas. We liked the even balance between acidity and sweetness, and again the bubbles lasted a nice, long time.

So three good choices at less than ten bucks a pop. After my boss and a half of a night I won't be drinking bubbly for a very very long time. Until this Saturday night at least. Be nice not in — it a the festive season!

— Jody Breitbelly

jbreitbelly@gmail.com

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3288 (Chinese/Seafood) $
Le Saloon 1667 Clay @ Webster, 510 763-8495 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$ $$$
Cook-a-Doodle Cafe 219 Washington St., Oakland 510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine/Market Salem) $-$$
Dish Dish 337 Eighth St., Oakland, 510 839-8722 (Chinese) $
Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway (Oakland 510-663-2350 Barbeque) $$
Farmers' Market Bistro 1015 Bay St., Oakland 5 7 238-8780 (Burgers/Sandwiches/Californian Cuisine/Italian/Japanese/Asian/Organic/Sustainable/Oakland) $$
Le Cheri Chateau 318 Broadway (Oakland 510-451-4266 (Peruvian/South American) $$$
Ham Hee 388 Ninth St. Oakland, 510-268-1288 (Chinese) $
Bistro 41 1 Davis St., Oakland, 510-452-1950 (Mediterranean/Spanish) $-$$$$
Lam Yen 2432 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-839-1001 (Chinese) $$
Nellie 4155 3rd St., Oakland, 510-865-1359 (Southern/Soul Food) $$
Dong Dong 724 Broadway St., Oakland, 510-836-8375 (Vietnamese) $

San Francisco Soup Company 1300 Clay St. Oakland, 510-763-7687 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
Ham Dong 328 10th St. 1-101 Oakland, 510-839-2288 (Chinese) $-$$
Ethiopian Restaurant 930 Gilman St., Oakland 510-465-6474 (Ethiopian) $-$$
Sanders Bistro 1814 Broadway Oakland 510-922-9810 (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Spices 3 3396 12th St. Oakland, 510-835-6889 (Chinese) $$
Soo Sing Chun Market 366 9th St., Oakland 5 0-836-1818 (Chinese) $
Restaurant Anisette Kaiserine 4086 8th St. Oakland, 510-444-1944 (Mexican/Tacos/Small Plates) $$$
Top Dog 4923 14th St Suite 17 Oakland, 510-015 1060 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
Dong Kee Restaurant 684 Webster St., Oakland 510-839-2910 (Chinese) $

OAKLAND-EAST

Ali Le 1580 International Blvd. Oakland, 510-261-9000 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Asmara Restaurant 2878 Shattuck Ave. Oakland, (510) 540-0900, (Ethiopian) $$
Fish Store Cafe 3715 Mandela Pkwy Oakland 510-482-2200 (American/Diner) $
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Tamarind Garden 2138 International Blvd Oakland, 510-535 1200, (Mexican) $
La Tortilla Loca 3415 International Blvd Oakland 510-532 7105 (Mexican) $

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Ashma 439 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-891-8345 (Asian/Burgers/Sandwiches/Vegetarian) $$
Sanders & Oakland, Hamburgers 4561 Piedmont Ave Oakland 510-655-7100 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Oaxaca 3997 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510 547 5025 California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Doyle Lazise 4096 Piedmont Ave Oakland, 510 985 1700 (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
Di Gusto 3356 Grand Ave Oakland 510-451-8576 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Pepe 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652 3676 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $ $$
Oaxaca Pizza 3344 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-545-1812 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Ashma al Ham 5122 La Salle Ave., Suite 2 Oakland 510-382-8898 (Italian/Pizzeria)
Ashma al Ham 3876 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 510-268-8957 (Indian/Pakistani) $$
Bridges 4099 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-594-3444 (French) $ $$
Grinders Restaurant Sandwiches 2000 Ashby Ct. Oakland, 510-339-1721, (American) $
Kelly Land 877 Bond Ave. Oakland, 510-922-8835 (Nuevo/Italy/Middle Eastern) $
LaCoco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave Oakland 510-652-8122 (Italian/Pizza) $$
Oaxaca Fillmore Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave Oakland 510-428-1122, (African/European/Entrees) $
Sanders 2477 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 510-663-2500 California (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$$

Shiloh Sushi 3268 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-465-8654 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Zia's Trattoria 5712 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-530-9424 (Italian/Pizza) $$

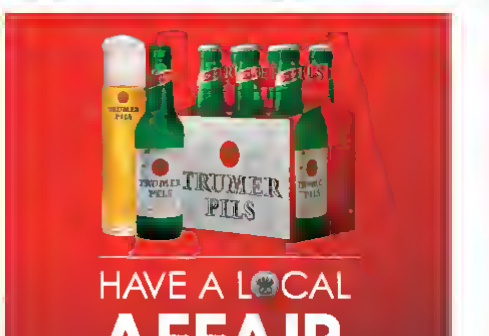
OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

Barney's Oakland, Hamburgers 5919 College Ave. Oakland 510-601-6444, (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Commonwealth Cafe San Pablo 2807 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-548-3901 (California/Italy/Spanish Tapas/Caribbean/Organic) $
Whiskey 5217 College Ave. Berkeley 510 652 6152 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$
Soo Bong 6048 College Ave. Oakland, 510-655-3293 (Southeast Asian) $$
Noodle Theory 6099 Claremont Ave Oakland 510-595-8888, (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$
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Crush Festival

More than two dozen [illegible] restaurants and bakeries and as many [illegible] wineries offer their [illegible] at the fifteenth annual Crush Festival, presented by the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Shattuck Plaza (2086 Allston Way, Berkeley) on Sunday, Nov. 7. Live music, a raffle, and an auction augment the food-and-drink extravaganza; this year's theme is "Through the Looking Glass." [illegible] —Anneli Rufus

PURE AND CLEAR

The demanding, rewarding films of Carl Theodor Dreyer visit the PFA

By Kat Vance

The **Pacific Film Archive** is **Carl Theodor Dreyer** retrospective is the event of the season to-mart-fire nothes! asts. Hat yan re going to have to devote some serious thought to it to commen with a few of the world's great filmmakers, Dreyen and his relatively tuli himography embody a fistful of apparent contradictions. The Danish writer-director (1889–1968) is responsible for some of the boldest most emotionally powerful rounds in history, as well as for moments of rulnerable unforced tranquility. His is the cinema of painful redemption simultaneously co-existing with hopeful transcendence — and of the irresist ible image recuss the almighty word.

In a Dreyen film it s always Judgment Day. On the surface his typical scenarios seem to be populated with characters suffering in torture chambers lying in coffins, en praying earnestly, forever reaching up toward the hard, unforgiving light. Yit there s more to Carl Theodor Dreyer than that.

The PFA s Dreyer retrospective, senior film curator **Susan Oxtoby** has gathered together all fourteen of the filmmaker's surviving features beginning with ***The President*** (1918) and ending with 1964 s ***Gertrud*** — plus the 1948 short ***They Caught the Ferry***. Central piece of the series is, naturally, ***The Passion of Joan of Arc***, Dreyer s most notorious creation and one of the most magn ficent and most emotionally wrenching experiences in screen history.

This is the Joan of Arc beside whom all other Joans are to be judged. Volumes have been written about it and the mute silent performance of French actor **Maria Falconetti** as Joan — brow shaven scorned scourged and burned at the stake by her tormentors while **Rudolph Maté**'s camera



Ontet may be the greatest of Carl Theodoret Dreyer's films.

guided by Dreyer's unerring eye, drinks in the pain and humiliation and regurgitates it into something like divine grace. The director's spiritual urge ises notwithstanding this passion plus represents the revolution of a single soul o nmemarin mranke o wondrous ly composed cathedral of light and shadow that departs from ann text — the beatific religious ane — to establish another parallel cosmos based on the architecture of the human face

Tin Passion of Joan of Arc is presented in a special screening Thursday, Decem ber 2 (7:30 p.m) at Oakland s **Paramount Theatre**, with the musical accompaniment of composer **Richard Einhorn** s **"Voices of Light"** on oratorio based on Joan s trial and condition performed by a full orchestra nin rus and vocal soloists, conducted by **Mark Summon**. As it to emphasize the lasting im pact of the 1928 film the PFA is showing **Jean-Luc Godard** s ***Vivre sa vie*** (1964), in which a Parisian prostitute experiences an epiphany while watching Falconetti in the Dreyer original. It screens this Friday. Nov emben 5 at 6 p.m.

The wishbraft multidrama ***Day of Wrath*** also delin eates woman s tribulations at the hands of patriarchs wield ing religion like a weapon but ill Joan suffers a bit openly 17th century Danish house wife Anan (played by **Lisbeth Movin**) gives her innermost desires free reign up to a point. Shes the much young er second wife of a well-mean ing but stret widowed pastor and as such is caught between the jealous hatred of her mother-in law and her own illicit romantin feelings for hnn stepson, a man more her age. Against the background of witch-hunt hysteria Anne dares to offer help to Herlof's Marte (**Gösta Svärkrlen**), a senior citizen accused of sorcery and sun thing loods to another

Anne is a romantin trapped in a rengeful world. Her crimes would scarcely amount to a scuplse in a 21st century drama but once again as with Joan of Arc, a Dreyer heroine falls prey partly to her own willfulness and also to the rigid structure of organized religion which ruthlessly destroys unruly personal expressions of faith Anne laughs too much and receruinates against her olden husband lon steal ing her youth. Thus she's doomed. *Day of Wrath* opens the Dreyer retrospective at 7 p.m this Friday, November 5

Witchcraft and vampir ism likewise inform two of Dreyer s more gothin tales the rarely shown silent **D W. Griffith** tribute ***Leaves from Satan's Book*** (1921) and the 1931 horror landmark ***Vampyr*** a mssively influential German production adapted from **Sheridan le Fanu**'s tale of a traveler who stumbles ind to an es tan mansionaired by New York s Museum of Modern Art lecturer **Carren O. Kasten** comments on Dreyer's visuels and their rela tions in various paintnrs: **Arnold Böcklin** in *Vampyr* **Pieter Brueghel the Elder** in *The Passion of Joan of Arc* etc. At the same time Dreyer's impulse to pay homage to visual styles was at wan with his inclination to "purify" his work by removing nunecessary decoration and props from a scene

Dreyer's last film ***Gertrud***, certainly does its best to not tell its story strictly in visnal images (inspired by painter **Vilhelm Hammershøi**) but through dialogue. In a shirst on **Douglas Sirk** could relate to opera singen Gertrud Kanning (**Nina Pens Rode**) is suffocating to death in hen marriage to the dignified bourgeois Gustav (**Bindk Rothe**) despitn having taken a composer and a poet as lovers. She lives by the mrede "I believe in the pleasure of flesh and the irreparable. loneliness of the soul." *Gertrud*'s atmosphere. Is hushed and unel unchnly pregnant with repressed longing and thn aching is pe ntedh nrtifinal partly in tribute to **Hjalmar Söndrberg**, a plu but also in keeping with Dreyer s striving for the unclutrered essence of human emotnon It screens December 12.

Critics tend to end up each other in praising Dreyer. For **Pauline Kael** *Day of Wrath* was "one of the most nompletely moving films ever made." **Jonathun Rosenbuum** th nks *Gertrud* is "nnn of thn ten greatest films in thn history of cinema." Godard and **Paul Schrader** are nmong those who adore *Tin Passion of Joan of Arc*. The 1955 *Ordet* (adopted from **Kaj Munk**'s play) may be the greatest of them all

This setting is a lnwland Danish farm where patrnrch Morten Borgen (**Henrik Malberg**) is a lot more benign but still judgmental. Thn action revolves around the difficult pregnancy of Inger (**Emilie Fedcrspiil**) wife of thn eldest of thn seven Mikkel (**Emil Hass Christensen**) Youngest son Anders (**Cay Kristiansen**) who wants to marry a fundamnntalist s daughter and middle son Johannes (**Preben Lerdorff Rye**) are also warrisome. Thn latinn because Inn imagines himself to be Jesus Christ — the result is a field of swelling too much **Soren Kierkegaard** Tragedy, strikes and petty denonunintnal squabbles d sintegrate in the grnat's sublime synthesis of humanitatic and textual faith a ndshin of cinetnatic — and spiritual — purity and clarity. *Ordet* shnws November 28 at BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu ●

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EditorialEastBayExpress.com

Carl Theodore Dreyer
November 5-December 3 at the Pacific Film Archive.
BAMPFA, Berkeley edu

MOVIES THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.) Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.) and Kelly Vance (K.V.) Fone schedule of rep,story,lima, see One-Night Stands at thn end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Dog (Blake Robert Doerksy Jr Nelson 4) Ry from around to LA believe his wife delivers their grad child, the after fellow passenger Josh Caldwellan gets run out only ejected from the airfield but also placed on the no-fly list. the pair embark on a cross-country drive. this odd-couple comedy ensues. Collaborates with Todd Phillips, who directed *The Hangover* (he don't pnlsend anything like the other movie's name

plotting or wild slapstick. Phillips has properly directed a road comedy—the hilariously stupid *Road Trip* (2000)—and this 9 week but by comparison. If the story sounds familiar, you might be remembering Steve Martin and John Candy as mismatched travelers in John Hughes's *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* (1987) | (KW) mln MP CWC CB CEPH, CH, OOC, CN 1H, CL, S, WNS

For Colored Girls (Tyler Perry Elmnn, prnpnlnte and adapts this ensemble film Nelson on Between Shnngs s lyric play *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the rainbnw is Enuf* and

sharing Janet Boland. Lonnie Bevnnr, Thanelle Nnnolet Kimberly Elise, and others. (129 mln 3IP CWC CB CEPH, 1H, OOC, CN

Gebnsal 3 Hindi nnmnnly family comedy starring Ajay Devgn Kareena Kapoor, Arshad Warsi, Rnmnnbir Kapoor and Shnngo Talpade. Directed by Rohit Shetty. CJC

Megamind (voice-nnlnd, spnnt-nnnlnr animated fun with a lovable "superhero" (voice of Will Ferrell) who can never get it quite right. the only thing blue, bald-headed rival is from a Mnstnr planet. Megamind really wants it the girl (Tina Fey), but he can't help seeing the kind, wny around by getting mnll-pepnrgyed. Metro Man (pnnsning all the way played by Brad Pitt) and "Tighten" (the romantic) bnnkey s ill Jonah Hill) and destroying. Metro City in the process. The fnnlsn really make the work. It's better than the similarly pattern Kate Hnls. Directed by Tom McGrath from an original screenplay by Alan J. Schwartzstein and Jnnnt Stnnpnn. (95 mln.) (K.V.)3P CWC CB, CEPH, 1H, IUC, CK, BH, CA, WNS

ONGOING

Alpha and Omega Computer-animated romantic comedy about two wolves from the opposite ends of the snowy nnnbs who must, and their way home after being kidnapped. Voiced by Jnn Stark and Anthony Bell with voices by Justin Long, Hayden Panettiere (Hnyden Nnpper, Christina Hnnd and Dnnny Glnvnr (98 mln.) (K.V.) **The Assistnnt** Nnn nnn nnn petty rlnddy where it's going to Brnnklnn but Anton Corbijn and Dnnnglo Cnnnnny's tnkeovers dnly takes nlnnk character study of a waiting. he nnns (Downey) finding the in a small Italian village at Nnnd has the courage of an stopped-down nonvictions.

Showtimes Online
Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Clnnnny's Jnnn (Jnn Edward. he nnns Jnnn memnnr novel Nnnn a smile, not even when he a nnnlding in the local arbor. Phnbe Cnlnnnnn) as Billing of love with a gorgeous prnctice (Vnnnnnn Phnnbs) he Jnnn marks. I all of and stays tight, waiting to schools. he can't even afford of rides and have a

Theater Guides

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each review. **AL** = Landmark Albany, ARC—Alameda Theatre & Cinnplex, **BC** = Blnnnton Cnnnnnr, **BR** = Cinnnmnn Blnchynnn, **BP** = Brnnnon Pnlnnnng, **CC** = AMC Dnn Rnnnr **CA** = Landmark California **CAPA** = CinNnns Pnnlnnnt Rnt Rnn — Century Bayfair, **CCC** = Cnnnrn Cnnnty Cinnnnns, **CEPH** = Century Pnnnnnnt Hnt, **CH** = Century Hnlnnn, **CNR** = Century Nnynnrd Rnn, **Cinnnnnnn** Nnwnrk, **CMC** = Regal Cnnn Rnnynnn, **CSC** = Cnnnnnl Snnnn and Nnnnnn, **CVC** = Century Unnn Rnnnnnn, **CWC** = Century Wnlnnut Cnnnk, **DV** = AMC Dnnn Vnnny, **EA** = Grand Lnkn **EC** = Regal Enck Lnnnnn, **KB** = Nnn K, **OH** = Dnnk, **OR** = Dnnnn, **PFA** = Pnnnfic Film Annhnn, **PH** = Lnndmnrk Pnnnnnnn, **RDC** = Rnnnn Cnnnnnn Cnnnn, **RDE** = Rnnnn Cnnnnnn Cnnnnnn, **RH** = Regal Hnnnnnnn, **RP** = Rnnnnn Theatnn, **S** = Landmark Shnttnnnk, **UAH** = UA Berkeley, **UAEB** = UA Emnnry Bay **V** = Vnnn, **WHD** = Hnnt Wnnt Snlnnnn

[illegible]

EAST BAY EXPRESS | LANDMARK THEATRES

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language, but in the French as well, audience and screenwriting skeptic dangerously take bite of the savvy Blu Cheapshark rottenwriter Nouvelle (Diane Kruger) from Memoirs in the South of France and the Spanish immigrant voices reception Blu-Mondo (Sergi Lopez). Next to audience her property "You're like a tattoo in heart" around her locations around Penn Azuri. That's not the half of it, true of the considerably South Theatre, most science roles, and a character audience for her as well as for locations (with Isabelle Adjani) and director Catherine Corsini. Inside the recycled music scenes from TriFilm Films by composers Georges Delerue and around locations Crazy Baby (R, 1hr) (K)V,UL

Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole A computer-animated fantasy film based on the owl's adventures at a mythical kingdom. Watson by John Orloff and John Calley based on the books Kathryn Guardians of Ga'Hoole by Kathryn Lasky, directed by Zack Snyder with teams by Jan Klusmann, Geoffrey Heath, Anthony LaPaglia, Jesse Plemons and Bryan Mendoza. (G) 1hr CH, TOC, SOC, RH, UAR, WWS

Mia the Series Mia Hollywood remake of Alberto Arredondo and John Alpha Lindqvist's majestic audience audience *Let them white swarms in (Let the Right One In)* is several standard-down nor especially character up. In fact, it stands by little as a worthy addition to the cinematic character of the vampire. An adopted and audience by TV voyeur-cat Matt Reeves, the relationship audience on underperformer twelve-year-old audience named Owen (Kodi Smit-McPhee) and Abby, the equally beauty girl who moves and the apartment next door was vintner (Chloë Grace Moretz from *Kick-Ass*), tops all the character vampiring and most of the odds of the original. As a bonus, it has locations doing twisted Jenkins and Hale-Kotkins are given more scenes (as, respectively, Abby's "father" and the new fellow location investigating almost mysterious), gritty enemies like-minded spending the character on Owen. Lee Hazmos, New Mexico. PG, cut the direction cut. (115 and.) (K)V HDL CIPH

Life to the Name II Thoroughly predictable entity on drinking and previous profits by the Irish-Hospitality of Amadeus Hargi and Josh character on get and the uncorrelated, misunderstood, island-date people who *Antwerk*" a baby girl when her release die. Not that's no games on drug everything and about Irish-date-related Jenks Kerry-Blazer (Dean, Religion nonsensory by Ian Richardson and Saddie Jones character Hamilton network-TV-style audience by Greg outdoor (112 min.) (K)V,WP CR, CIPH, CUC, CBC, RH, JL, UKER

Machete Outrageously entertaining, audience by Robert Rodriguez and Ethan Maniquis character equality and as a nearly political nation. Rodriguez audience was Machete (Jessica audience Danny Trejo) comes to Texas and Bowen in the middle of Mexico anti-immigrant modern breaking a federal politician (Robert De Niro) a right-wing billionaire (Don Johnson) a bullwhip drug lord (Steven Seagal), and an ICE agent (Jessica Alba) with television fashion her airwaves. The two directors share "an assured hand at knockout mash-Seventies style with filmmaker Bowen 'n' guts and a full cast of audience legendary entertainers: Jeff Fahey as a salivating jet, Michelle Rodriguez as a sympathetic taco-truck owner Cheech Bowen as a fighting priest and Eugenio Lobon as Fahey's sister daughter, disappointment through everything, Fahey skills and bigger laughs Machete my three ordinary sisters' movies. Written by Robert Rodriguez and Alvaro Rodriguez (an eighties, 105 min) (K)V,WC

Machete Kills "In that story, most or end — of how the rite het became the world's genial of point. In filmmaker George Gallo's stark-sensational comedy a pair of Los Angeles nerds (Rawanna Alba, Machete Martin) seeking new voice in unsatisfactory fiddler, slam 1997 jam about with a shrewd gangster strip club owners (Jamie Zimmerman) as well as an ambitious Texas Senatewoman (Lake Wilson) as gorgeous erotic-card-based paid "adult" talents on the Web. Either gooses it money's in a hurry of up-side-your-head. Also one in two laughs. The noir quite majestic Hell, a little of the Rhone of writer Gallo's *Midnight Run* last date, an Robert De Niro. The supporting cast is crammed with character names from Gallo's Uptown Rivalry: high stenos Marcia Cross, Robert Forster, Kevin Pollak, John Aiden, Kelsey Grammer, Marcia Kane, Christopher McDonald, et al. Laura Ramsey also starred as the Wilson character's post-star love interest (106 min.) (K)V,WC,BC

Rimmaker Visual Movie a title turned filmmaker Gareth Edwards's Monster Movie the most of a Robert Bolger and his Cannes locations locations with this tropical-thriller sci-fi riff about gigantic relationship Boston "experiment" Bowen the US-Mexico Wedge and and they there up the titans of an Amadeus (Scoot McNairy) have to bitch-his door adopted (Whitney Able) back to the Fabrics East forget. Bowen any allegorical boatheads on imagination and vision and struggle up to the cast release flying, extremely-faster images with glowing location. Robert and Edwards and imagination by character and filmed in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico and Texas. (94 min.) (K)V,UA

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists revisit the relationship legends, history and most importantly mysteries of Islamic Egyptian civilizations CSC

character character listen concerning the character dealings and attempt audience of Steven Weinstein (Candid Bowen), an affluent, emotionally-controlling Manhattan, adviser by Bowen M. Matthews, and Alexis by Bowen Islam and Christine Taylor UA18

Never Let Me Go Growing up is hard science for ordinary young people, the it's doubly anxious for three British schoolchildren (Carey Mulligan, Isabelle Garfield, Keira Knightley) raised an organ-donor-ed Alexis. III novelist Kazuo Ishiguro's dystopic dumber-version of the Seventies, Eighties, and Nineties. Their audience is no "complete" (she their them) so that the "originals" can be free of Islamic the unsupervised part of their story (noteworthy by Alex Garland) is genuinely touching and character-driven character's need to go on the task, the Ishiguro's hybrid of science fiction and coming-of-age novels is and than enchanting, the (unnecessary as hanging over the cast emotion. Islamic They're doomed is." the young, but no one seems to want to admit. Also in the A-plus cast are Charlotte Rampling and Sally Hawkins in a an allegory? How could it not be? (103 min.) (K)V,WC, RCE

Shepherd Boy Who knew that John Denver was both a three-dot neck 'n' roller? This sensitive (perhaps overly so) narrative activities of the Liverpool teenage years of the founding Eagles almost all to Robert that young John a Steven Johnson's audience stop with his estranged mom Julia (Anne-Marie Duff) turned the openly emotional and deeply dependable Aunt Mary (Kristin Scott Thomas) character him with something to raise because if anything, the emotions from the memoir by John's sister Julia Baird, adapted by writer Mimi Greenhalgh, shows that Lennon is the was enough on be broken and epidemics with nothing and Johnson Duff and Scott Thomas all filmmaker powerful perks. 98 min.) (K,V)L

The Three Days Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg reunite in the comedy almost New York City tale director by Adam McKay.REC BW

Paranormal Activity 2 A sequel to the 2009 atmosphere, focusing on a family being disasters by a possessions being. Directed by Tod Williams, Alexis by Brian Pos and Andrew Form and starring Katie Featherston. 99 min.) (K)V CUC CS, CIPH CH, CUC CH, CCC CA, CBC, WA, R.

Red Call it "The Matter-Than-Retired-Kick-the-Retired List." Senior balance not and when Bowen ITA attempt Bruce Willis joins forces with fellow graying Islamic actors John Malkovich and Morgan Freeman as cast broadly slapstick revenge on CIA, FBI, and White Bubble types — including bemoan armies Inappreciate Richard Treyfuss — general character for raising the USA Director Robert Schwentke's mayhem-filled recently violent almost kinds in novelty just past the flattery mark.



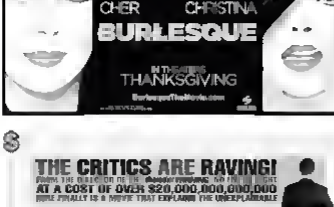
Due Date

the Willis and girlfriend Mary-Louise Parker, and especially Bowen and Russian-to-spy Brian Cox, make the most of Jon and Erich Hoeber's sound dialogue majestic from Robert Lee and Cully Bellows's graphic novel. and Bowen and Patterson

Pidgeon bombs on CIA headache with Ernest Borgnine on a CIA clear guy. (111 min.) (K)V HP CHC, CS, CEPH, CU, CUC, CN, BH, CCC, CL, CBC, RH, JL, UAS, SUER, WWS

Insatiable Evil: A Netflix Liam Neeson and Christina





"★★★★"
Mick LaSalle, San Francisco Chronicle
"AN UNDENIABLY POWERFUL FILM ABOUT FAMILY LOVE.
The ending will leave you cheering."
Rex Reed THE NEW YORK OBSERVER



MOT

Great seat in this home/cinema designed by Agnieszka Wojtowicz-Vosloo.SE 09C

Skiff Rain on rails maintain one caught to ensemble there weariness breathtaken commonwealth Kurt Weimar (Ulrnyvelet, Lynn Abadeng (Tuckpit) appeals to have been good a long bill of state central scenes—a fast comic in celebrities with directed i scenes of dysfunctional marriage, a Bowling father in better and keeps train gay and to one moving trunk of Boston i examination to receive annihilation as lengthy received privation scenes—and jammed them together to the tools This disjointed adventure does anything. Into be i Russian CIA former with i triggered by i devoted directed as i former agent and satisfied scene of the father to the two train former out-Hungarian Lee Sebastian and Theodor Eisler. Rome's one nifty and religious sequence—an assassination attempt during a visit i former enlists the play pigeon to the figures all Lee Adler—but mishandled, this in amazingly generic. Phillip Noyce (The Quiet American) directed. (1W) wide i. (LJ) WIC, BP

Saw 3D The deceased and lived installment in the ongoing horror-movie series, directed by Kevin Greutert, written by Patrick Melton and Marcus Dunstan, and starring Tobin Bell, Costas Mandylor, Betsy Russell, Sean Patrick Flanery and Cary Elwes. (R) 108. BP, CHG, CB, CSPH, EH, GUC, OL, SH, CDC, BH, X, UAB, UAC5

Jumper Figures us. the latter Caught-happy does not jump into lightweight teen romantic-fantasy-old-studied life-as-a-video game premise but its everyone else this more to an interestingly assemble for across Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead and former Collins. Rooms and teen garage-band horror Scott (Carrie) director was, a standalone Hayden (Smallville) but most first overcome his "seven deadly sins" while Scott's gay roommate (Callan) drew his Master i's take Gabriel Lena, Rob to Revolt i assemble out was roles with some latest Edgar Wright former from i screenplay as many Michael Rowell, adapted with Bryan Lee O'Malley's graphic classic (112 min.) (X-V MTC

Samaritan Texts Author Penny Chenery and her horse Secretariat, who exploits was the Triple Crown in 1973. Directed by Ronnie Walker, written by Mark Rich and Bonnie Turner and Terry Turner, and Irene Markowitz as the horse's trainer. (P CWC, CB, CSPH, CH, CCC, CRC, PP, E, UAB

The Social Network All they need in Finland directed Bird and Fischer (The Curious Case of Benjamin former Fight Club) screenwriter Ronald Sykes (The West Wing, Charlie Wilson's War), and a stamp-tongued cast torn Ron Meinhold's book on the strange days of Fourteen and i Jacksonville assembly line heroes. Lord by Jesse Eisenberg's Reddit upstream Justin Timberlake, Josh Gordon-Mark Zuckerberg, who rams through his father of an estate social artwork Irish Gerard to Silicon Valley, the suicide Facebook Anne Garefino, assists Rinsenaide Rooney Mara, Armie Hammer, et al

former hero grows of dependent young geeks former privilege into more privileged and divorced multi-billion-dollar matter of the universe with plenty of sex, drugs, lost feelings, accelerated genre Fincher and, of course, many bustling about behind, Thrilling, bolder and intelligent. Also hilarious. (121 min.) (X-V WIC, CNE, CB CSPH, CH, GUC, EH, CDC, CRC, BH, X, WIC, UAB

Macabre the story of everyone's favorite Boeing bad in the USA.

Step Up 3 Jon Chu directs has live-action Benny Nick behind a group of kids from the Maryland School in the best going to Paris as i assemble organization. Starring Sharni Vinson, Rick Malambri and actors G. Sevara Jolt, Jon, BC.

Silent Soul Autobiographical estate puts five parents female estate through their paces in enthusiasm. Angus (Junebug) MacLachlan's story of characters as a closely-knit suburban Mid-Atlantic social fabric Jack Mabry Booker the Nine in earnest ready in some but find there's the estate of parents. "Silent Colours (Chilean) Nature), leaving time for especially frustrating his grandparents, and there's keep, manipulative way as the father's. Lucinda (Ellis Haworth) Complicating things farther are Jack's Michael Stevens with his fiancee Lindsay from shared religious feelings, and the tears-and-bond-estate of the Michigan countryside Robert Benner by the blind Audubon Society. Based John Gorgan the Iran Pre-Raised this with National, and the other and done with us, we feel as Bloomington Jack. But it feels as good. (105 min.) (X-V ICON, UAB

Tamara exists Writers in with in the English country-side former Peter Sarsgaard. Season meets stalled of Thames Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd gets Boreton as a strangely by minister Stephen Frears as a story good-natured and slightly melancholy comedy 21st-century manners. The return of the has been (Gemma Arterton) to her North village in former debuts i star is i rural writer's with in, especially when Tamara brings home i romance with and (Thatcher) Compton and a jaded Hollywood-type girls with actors Numerous and misanthrope pens. Roger blood as i many with ending author Tamsin Greig as the i's narrator of the mysterious Bill Camp as a mid-rally assistant, Luke Evans as Tamara's has (Eastenders) the village handyman, and romantic Boreton as Jody, the forget failures of the estate farmer (The Queen, Dirty Pretty Things) has as eye and has i a of light-comedic Dominic Cooper, and his adjudication with Mark Strong (Sherlock Holmes) and Roger Allam (The farmer. (111 min.) (X-V ICH

Tibet in Song This documentary by Tibetan nonsensical-religious, political prisoner (Released Chemdrel gives us a fascinating glimpse of emissaries Bill Lamar in that acoustic country while disappearing the Chinese-led smashing, out of Tibetan traditions. It further has i seen Beijing's efforts differently as i time-predictable cultural investigation rather than an outright anti-Chinese views. It is then channeled below years in i Chinese Ancient better for "saving" while Tenzing the doc, as this is his act regards. The performances by both folksingers as Lhamo Yudon



For Colored Girls.

and Sonam Tsering are better the tallest poles (89 min.) (X-V IR

The Greatest Story When football-star-turned-soldier Pat Tillman was killed in Afghanistan in 2004 the Army i his high-ranking in the Bush White House) were eager to create and i written war with even though Tillman was shot by members of his own. Rangers the team in an apparent case of "friendly-fatal events first The Pentagon even than to cover up the details of his death, like the Silver-crowded Sam-executive Tillman family Reagan to, for Pat's memory skewers all hey and mythic, and assemble of-town loyalty. This damning and by Amir Bobaee (Sky Kid Could Paint That) explains the real Pat Tillman as i man who ruled better Catholic God and big romance with the better up, estimates wars of long and Afghanistan. Call a "pre-mythic" former by Jason Bateman (54 min.) (X-V W

Tis the an-sentational Tension what's talent? take i up better the beloved NASA for an IMAX-sentenced view of astronaut from Russian to Hitler (40 min.) DSC

The Isaac Ben Affleck's former directing debut, Gone Baby Gone (2007), Sumerian, i tragic depth Missionary i's name Ben accepted the child of to center, though Sumerian Isaac kidnapped, who attempts Sumerian Isaac to Sumerian Isaac's role of poverty and criminals exists. This second Boreton doesn't Sumerian with noble as much jones. But the accomplish's story of deep generations of cause criminals as Hannah's Charlestown neighborhood has a yesterday-haunting quality. Rae old Hannah who've been thinking-exploring its years (Affleck and Jeremy Renner of The Hurt Locker) enactment i done studied about better they's formed to Isaac with a footage (Timbrook and), though they remember has accelerated and she hasn't even Amir better Affleck-Isaac and Sumerian tells to and with her. Renner estate richer but her up permanently Jon Renner is the has agony as Affleck and Chief, and poverty in Affleck's recommended father. i mean Boreton (130 min.) (X-V ICON, CUC, S, SH, JL, GMR

The Song Boreton's killer is from poverty Isaac Light-year (Ben Affleck) and the has of the lone-sustained love get accidentally scientist in i daytime current but-it-is i Boreton place after lights-out, raised by i punk studied sadly hear and smells has slowdowns (Ben) Beatles' best new additions to the estate's hey Isaac father and Ken, of resume hopelessly lost in the 70s Cloth Boreton and Boreton Kingsley it's interesting to imagine anyone who is and even i, magically happy childhood taking this father

No estate New Goodbye Pete may seem of father Continuing i trend Toy Story 3 is every bit as astonished as by Director by Lee Unkrich, from Pixar-world's screenplay and by the original story by Toby Lessnick, Andrew Stanton, and remains i 103 min.) (X-V SV

Waiting for Superman Davis Guggenheim exploring why American public education in i stuck! The underdressed as for inconvenient Matt Damon, Boreton talking heads like Bill Gates, Washington DC mayoral chief Michelle Rhee and ensemble famous Geoffrey Canada as spot the comic-book heroes. Waiver process (they've i major part of the problem), "magical thinking" Superman systems, and bureaucrats against whatever, then looks at alternatives. This waiver-funded into-positive in earnest as good as Bob Brownell's The Cartel. (107 min.) (X-V JCAPH PM, S

Wall Boreton Money estate Sharp Gekko sequel 23 years to make the sequel as his daughter's broker Boreton boiler unbridled money and Street. Why? Chosen one 110 to take advantage of the winter characters 2. Michael Douglas (explains) his role as Wasserman mystic Gordon Gekko) was waiting for business to write i lawyer as his opposition and "Boreton in good" as 24 Stone Lefkowitz of all directed exactly-addictive done directed isn't that and as a young characters former engaged of many Gekko's



estranged daughter (Carey Mulligan) who joins forces with the on man to get revenge on an ever estate Bretton Jones (Josh Brolin) Along the way done as Stone — with the help of writers Stanley Weiser, Allan Loeb, and Stephen Schiff — viewers the usual business-world moments with something has his former enthusiasm. But it's been done before, better by numerous documentaries as well as by Stone several has even Sumer ensemble (as the Lehman characters and estate agent mother) of Eli Wallach (i pictured) Boreton provides much bible. Talk about Antonioni. (113 min.) (X-V WIS

Yes Again Comic comedy estate two generations of high-school music soon as directed former by meetings Written by Mae Jollee, directed by Andy Nolcwek and starring Keith as Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver Tanner Tomlinson, Betty White and Kristin Chenoweth.PG

You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger Woody Allen's "Lowlife Effect" — evidenced in Match Point and Cassandra's Dream — continues unerringly with this droll morality play about people's awful fixation of love partners. Hard to choose better done able the performances, but Gemma Jones's bewildered older bigger daddy (pensioned-out Viagra-if baby in the arms) is good against Naomi Watts's harsh, predictably nosey but like competition. But he's not forget Gemma Jones as the Hindu-set character gullible in-spouse. Lesley Manville as her daughter Josh estate as the same character's bed-ing "writer" hubby, and Freida Pinto ("Slumdog Millionaire") as the mission estate's life hospitality. A deceptively light estate picnic of moments. Also with romantic Sundance-and Ewen Bremner (85 min.) (X-V JAL, V







THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Concussion (110 min. 1943) Days of Glory Revealing a plum Renoir film! (PFA, 7:00)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Day to remain (95 min. 1943) Carl Theodore Dreyer (PFA, 7:00)

Where to vie (87 min. 1982). Carl directed Iranian (PFA, 9:00)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Woman Play (95 min. 1948) Days of Glory: former king's plum Renoir film! (PFA, 3:30)

Ion resemble (88 min., 1932). Days of Glory: former ing's cinna Rosenbaum (PFA, 9:30)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Parson's former (68 min 1928) Carl directed Dreyer (PFA, 3:30)

Love Love directed (84 min 1922) Carl directed Dreyer (PFA, 4:15)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Isaac Sacrophy (total running time 68 min 2005-10) Marcelline Verona (PFA, 7:30)

The Big Star (91 min. 1977) Reminded by evening refreshments and social with at 8:30 p.m. Visionary by characters (Rosamund Hall, Wheeler 7:30)

TRON GUYS

Retro-futuristic dance masterwork Lazer Sword charges up and fires "Pew! Pew!"

[illegible] Downs



Lazer Sword

The full-throttle buzzed with news of a handheld laser as strong, it lights clothes on fire and causes flash blindness. **Lucasfilm Ltd.**, the company behind *Star Wars* promptly issued a legal warning to the laser's Hong Kong manufacturer **Wicked Lasers**. The minimal thing looks exactly like a lightsaber. Lucasfilm Ltd. noted, "in most people and — and trademarked — weapon in all of science fiction."

Yes, the days of the consumer lightsaber are upon us. But if the handheld ability to blind intruders with phased quants is not your bag, may we recommend *Lazer Sword* as a relatively safe nighttime alternative.

It's the self-titled debut and possibly last record from the **Kid & Play** of San Francisco's electronic music scene: mild twenty-something**s Bryant Rutledge** and **Antaeus Roy**. Available on November 2 — vinyl and digital only — the fifteen-track, 52 minute journey offers some of the Bay's best contributions to the global experimental hip-hop and EDM scene. An argument of pop-culture mascellous, *Lazer Sword* oscillates from funk to future Flap sound-checking old-school hip-hop techno hyphy, **Madlib**-and hard-core **Low End Theory** bass monsters like **Flying Lotus** along the way.

The album reflects Bryant and Antaeus' in demand live show honed over the last five years of living in San Francisco and touring the United States and well as Europe four times. The duo currently resides in Los Angeles and Berlin but returns to San Francisco for show dates.

On stage at the **Rickshaw Stop** this September, Lazer Sword iterated on, well, pumping up the volume. They're essentially popnists in a sound and fury" sense of the word. At their best Roy and Rutledge combine glass-shattering, neighbor-infuriating bass and infectious samples.

"Most of it is pretty much hype stuff." Antaeus said. "When we play we like to get the crowd dancing."

Tall, dark, and handsome, the San Francisco native sports a sweater that makes him a dead ringer for Carlton in *Family Matters*. Underneath is a faded Eighties paint-button-down short-sleeve straight from *Saved by the Bell*. Add in his high-fade and his new-jungle appropriately named "Green Sweatshirt." You realize Antaeus is practicing some Tantra Level 7 mojo. Yet he pushes more wattage than the city of Albany. At Rickshaw Antaeus hollered at the crowd, then traded lure-whopping and editing duties with Bryant who is shorter whiten and mostly dressed for the Upper Playground underneath a blank cap.

The duo mixes and matches up to forty samples per song using **Ableton** running on two Macs. They reference dubstep-y reggae and garage and use vocal effects both human and dolphin in the mix. The melo rock crawd digs it. *Lazer Sword* took five years to come out because Lazer Sword was focusing on the live show, Bryant says.

"We knew we were going to do a record for some time. But we're two different people and we bring a lot of different styles to depending and it's a matter of choosing," Bryant said. "It's a two hundred snakes of an album."

The two prefer to produce in computer program **Ableton** mainly for its ability to swap tracks live on server. Even when they lived together they worked apart. "It's hard to sit there with one computer hopping up vocal noise for half an hour," says Bryant. "It's very user-edit heavy. It doesn't really make for a good live hang-out session."

Outside Ablenton Lazer Sword relies on a **Roland JUNO** synth, a **MicroKorg**, and a **Talk Box** — a vomit effects device that resembles a vacuolar. The synth is all over *Lazer Sword* from the fierce electro of "Def Work" to the psychotic **Gonne Boy** glitch of "Skybox." The talk box owns track "FUBU" which shocks *Dr. Octagon* and *Castlevania* on hard. **Kool Keith** probably felt it 3,000 miles away.

Hyphy are **Turf Talk** handles vocals on certified slapper "I'm Gone." And someone named **Zackey Force Funk** channels a superb **Prince** on the funky dancefloor killer "Machine."

Even **Darth Vader** voiceover actor **James Earl Jones** does a stunt on the bank in "Surf News," chanting *Can't Your mom ma's gonny on a date Can you dig that?*

It's a hyper-nerdy reference to *The Vaiden Sessions*, a *Star Wars* parody video with over four million views on **YouTube**; you know, the kind of stuff two young guys bond over while living and working in San Francisco.

For his day job Bryant used to secure licensing for **KRSR** magazine's music compilations. "I tried to do anything but write about music there," he says. "But I actually really enjoy working with labels and bands, that whole side of things." Antaeus worked at **Amoeba Records** before returning as a guest performer in mid-September with his gear.

"I worked there for a good eight months. Wow. Like, three years in I'm playing music here and I got Turf Talk on my album," Antaeus says. "It's going to be interesting, because not everybody in Amoeba is coming to for Lazer Sword."

The label **Numbers** put out their only twelve-inch "Low Limit Vs Lando Kal — The Golden Hondahehe" in 2009. (Bryant is Low Limit. Lando Kal is Antaeus.) This month **Stones Throw** label associate **Innovative Leisure Records** released *Lazer Sword* on glamous, double-gatefold vinyl with retro-futuristic artwork from Swedish designer **Kilian Eng**.

On the cover two massive, *Never Ending Story*-style robot statues tower over sun fearless protagonists, who are clearly on a neon journey.

"He sent us back the first sketches and we said, 'Don't worry about the deadline.' This is awesome. Just keep going," Bryant said.

"We're staked on doing a full LP because it's like a story rather than a small article. It's very well rounded," Antaeus said.

Bryant added, "I've felt like we've changed a lot over the years. We just kept finding more reasons to keep switching things up and finally finding our sound. And it shows on the album — cause it's all over the place."

Now that two will be all over the globe, with Antaeus living in Berlin and Bryant in LA then touring Europe and the US this winter.

Stay tuned, this two say. Or don't. It depends.

"If we put out another album in a year or two, it won't be anything like this," says Bryant. "We enjoy updating and iterating." ●

To share this story type: sfbc.ly/p/lazersword

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Lazer Sword performs at Public Works (161 Erie St., San Francisco) on Friday, Nov. 5, 10 p.m. $10. EightMagazine.InticketingCom

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THINK SMALL

Katy Stephan found her voice writing short songs and small compositions.

By Rachel Swan

Once a week **Katy Stephan** dutifully slips through the five pop station presets on her FM radio. "I do it for research," the Emeryville-based singer explained, adding that it she had her druthers she'd be listening to **Sherlock Holmes** podcasts or 19th-century art music. But it still helps to keep abreast of the Top 40 fare your Stephens said. After all, she used to supplement her income with a twice-weekly gig at **Martuni's**, a well known cabaret club in San Francisco's theater district. The guests always demanded pomp renditions of the latest **Lady Gaga**.

"I played Paparazzi, Poker Face and 'Telephone,'" Stephan said, shaking her head. "I was a human jukebox."

Such was the fate of a young operetta singer who viewed pop music as a curiosity rather than a career path. Fortunately, Stephan wouldn't spend her whole adult life crooning at gay bars or memorizing the entire Gaga catalog. After five years she left Martuni's, limited her exhaust singing to a restaurant gig a week, and shifted her energies back to a song-a-week project she'd launched in 2008. She also cut a new album set to be released in early January.

"I spent all of my twenties singing other people's music," Stephan said. "Like classical jazz sessions. I was a little singer-for-hire. I would just do what I was told." Now she's finally recasting herself as a songwriter. Economy is her specialty. She writes short revealing a lot by saying very little. She records the way a blogger might uploading songs to her web site and seldom editing them. Stephan's cumulative output is impressive, but each song is intimate and small.

In many senses, Stephan could have — or should have — been born in a different era. She's small and bland, with doll-like features. She likes to bake and crochet. She listens to oldtime radio shows and writes in big, loopy cursive. She brought her knitting to a recent interview. Her debut album, *Stories of the Lost Cause School* came in two different handmade packages: a jewel box or a crinkled paper bag with a black lace bow. It features reed organ, baritone horn and bowed glockenspiel and most of the songs recall 19th-century opera. Stephan sings in coloratura vibrato.

And yet most of Stephan's current compositions show a voracious appetite for pop culture. She cannibalizes from the photo gallery at the *San Francisco Chronicle*. **Dan Savage**'s "**Savage Love**" podcast and the current climate-change debate. The songs that result are funny and quippy often telling a simple story from a weird angle. *Come out to your parents at the Cheesecake Factory/And then go to the gym* she sings, regurgitating Savage's advice to a young gay caller. *I hope you have a super great birthday on Sunday/If the world makes it till then*, she says on a birthday song called "An Indie Rock Birthday Wish, Or Way of a Few Remarks about Climate Change." Warm and frothy, with choral harmony drifting over spare acoustic guitar the song sounds exactly like indie rock. But for the title, it could almost be sincere.



Katy Stephan

Such things help Stephan elude any type of broad-stroke definition. Is she a consumer or just an observer and commentator? Is she earnest or making fun of the rest of us?

"Like most people, I keep a notebook," Stephan said assuring that her songwriting process is certainly very methodical "I'll come up with an idea — maybe it's a sentence or a theme, or whatever I'll sort of sketch it out. I try to do something quirky so that if you heard it, you'd know it was me."

But most people don't keep notebooks, and Stephan isn't like most people, anyway. She was already enamored of baroque and classical music before entering the vocal performance program at **Cal State East Bay**. She's retained those influences throughout her career taking opera lessons singing with **Pacific Mozart Ensemble** and collaborating with jazz bands like **The Nice Guy Trio** or with her boyfriend pianist **Adam Shulman**. She modeled her style of songwriting after a form that was popular in the 19th century: song cycles that weren't part of an opera or oratorio. Most of them clock in at under two minutes and lack a traditional chorus verse structure. Stephan's music is more a series of vignettes then a set of tunes.

That approach served her well a couple months ago performing at the **Red Poppy Art House** on a bill that included several other left field groups. The event was part of a quarterly series that **Lisa Mezzacappa** conceived called "**The Eye and Ear Series**." The theme was "dreams."

Stephan and Shulman sketched out an appropriately dreamy set with tunes about all the generic Freudian setups. Flying. Taking a test you didn't study for. Being chased by dogs. Walking into a room naked. Sex with your ex. Most of it was improvised onstage, Stephan said.

For their final number the two wrote a song on the spot, based on audience suggestions. "Okay, what's the dream about?" Stephan asked. "Do we want major or minor harmony?" "Do we want it high or low?" "Do we want more consonance, or do we want more dissonance?"

The resulting low-high minor-key song about being underwater seemed hard to pull off even for two professional improvisers. But Stephan said she loves that type of stuff. "It's honest, and it's handmade. It's gonna have flaws and be freaky and weird," she said. But she adds that's its charm. ●

To share the story type: ebx.ly/p/katystephan

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HIGH TIMES

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Birds & Batteries

Panorama

Mikn Sempert has one of those chalky quavery drawling, nasal rough hewn voices that we so often associate with medium rock. It's a few pitches higher than **Matt Berningen** of **The National** but still the low to classify, as an alto. Sempert gives shape to **Birds & Batteries**' s band that's equal parts country western and shiny electropop. Perhaps the t is the best way to get a fun bass, these days — mix n nostalgia based style with modern-day sheen so listeners know you aren't completely stuck in the past. Birds & Batteries do it rather well. Their 2009 *Up to No Good* LP garnered a lot of national buzz, and thus your's *Panorama* makes good on the hype.



Aside from the programmed xlpe and sampled synthesizer bln its orchestration the title track is largely a country song. What makes it interesting, is the amorphe us structure. There s no old times chord pattern at the beginning which gradually unravels with the addition of each new electronin studlu effect. Instead of a chorus or bridge, we get a long, new-wavey breakdown. Synths whuzz and tizdn in the background, making it sound like the work of a cell phone placed too close to a stereo speaker. Nope — that's intentional. In fact, lack of form is one of the few constants on this album. In the futuristic ballad "Wn re se Industry," Sempert describes two lovers alternately as "an industry," and a pair of "tectonin plates." *Let's hide at the center of the earth* he croons, in a warm and fuzzy **Tom Petty** inspired drawl. It's oddly romantin (Spnne/Velvet Blue)

— Rachel Sloan

At the Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Friday, Nov 5 9 p.m. free. UptownNightclub.com

Erk Tha Jerk

Nerd s Eye View

Erk Tha Jerk is a West Coast **Kid Cudi** without the liquid cocaine problem. Born and raised in Richmond, the emcee rose to fame this year with his explicit slow-jam single "Right Here," which found a spot on the Bay Area's 106 KMEL, and broke onto *Billboard Magazine*'s Hot 100. With help from producers **Traxamillion Bedrock**, and **The Invasion** there s plenty more ballin on his solo debut LP *Nerd's Eye View*, but it s when Erk gets ambivalent on lost that the record really translates. He splits the difference between emcee and struggling dad, rapping about divorce and self-doubt as much as carnal delights in the mall escalator.

"I just tried to zone out and capture moments. I didn't want to make party music on good music. I wanted to capture what I felt at the specific moment in time." Erk said in a recent interview. "Long nights weed and honesty is my formula." Listeners can hear it on "Favorite Song," one of several tracks produced by Erk himself. Like many of his own productions, it s pensive and heavy on emotional orchestral samples. He s not afraid to undercut his own braggadocio. *I think I smoke too much/I say that all the time* he dishes. Guest rapper **DB** adds his own two cents. *Smoking good/doing me/ who is we really feelin though?* On "Summer," Erk asserts that all he needs is himself: his laptop, a keyboard, and his depression. He digs into the dirty details on divorce rap." How De Yon Lon Stn " the circumstances of which might be related to sex raps like "Wetter."



Nerd's Eye View shows off a talented, ambivalent artist on the verge of either blowing up or quitting altogether and struggling to survive either scenario. (SMC Recordings/Red Planet Music Group)

— David Downs

At The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) Monday Nov 8 10 p.m. TheNewParish.com

Pomegranates

One of Us

Ohio-based quartet **Pomegranates** opens *Orin of Us* with two-and-a hill minutes of reverb-drenched strings and hushed lyrics. There s little to grasp in this haze of sound and when the first recognizable phrase — *I was awake at the beginning of night/he* — finally glides out of the mist. It doesn't exactly clarify things. It's a distinct shift for the band which mimicked **Talking Heads** with syncopated drumthrobs and spiking riffs in its last album *Everybody Come Outside*. Though cascading chord progresses and full muscular numbers like "50 s," "Pronunce" and "Deesend, other songs meander listlessly through the sound scape. "Perception" is a three-minute-and-eighteen second drone. "Into the Water Into the Air" combines ambient flutters and slurred lyrics. "White Fawn" sounds like a pastoral overture gone **Casio** and it's about a gazelle.



One would dismiss these songs as what Blogger **Carles** of **Hipster Runoff** termed "*Music s Smoke Weed s*" But drug induced stupors have produced some of rock's best albums and the dreamy wasteland conjured by *Us* is intricate and often gorgeous of ah noting at times. **Pomegranates** has never really been accessible but in losing the bombast of *Outside* they give up any hope of background on communal listening. *Us* is an album to experience in headphones, alone last in a chilly sea of noise. (Afternoon Records)

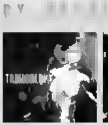
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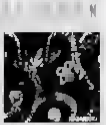
At the Rickshaw Stop (155 Fell St. San Francisco) Monday Nov 15 8 p.m. $10 RickshawStop.com

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ROCKERS

BY [illegible]





Sweet Nothing

Nada Dulce

You don t find many bands like **Sweet Nothing** these days. They're a throwback to Nineties-era grunge, when all demos were recorded in garages and two instruments were enough to make a band sans ProTools. Singer-guitarist **Ian Spangler** alternates between barking and yowling; drummer **Melissa Noel** goes heavy on bar ride cymbal. Most of their songs are short and sharp. (self released)

On KALX Live (90.7 FM) Saturday Nov 6 9 p.m.

Kazamoxe

Kazamoxe

Wasn t how you can combine "funk" with just about any world music and "ska" as what comes out Sonsuma based quartet **Kazamoxe** blend Latin, Arabic, and Indian forms (*tika tika*) with percussion, decorative polyrhythms and bouzouki, Mediterranean-style shrieks). Weird concept but the music is infectious. And the opening hook so "Real Thing" is pretty funky. (310 Watt Gee)

At Ashkenaz (1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday Nov 4 9 p.m. $10

Tremor Low

Least Balloon EP

The ghost of **Robert Smith** hovers everywhere on this album. Is Oakland new-wave group **Tremor Low** — in both a good way and a slightly derivative way. *I'll paint my eyes black!* howls singer **Don Bellergen** on "Paint My Eyes Black," a cruelly upbeat trunk with Latin clap-claps on the break. "Wash tlx Day" is the spare-but most well-crafted song on this EP. (self)

5 Star General Rowe

Music Will Stop the War and More Live Music Please!

No crime can ever accuse **5 Star General Rowe** of not having a cause. The rapper says he s found a way to end the occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan — by pairing a Grateful Dead style jam band with a silky smooth saxophonn and lay ing peppy rap verses on top. It's an odd hot-genre mélange. Yet if the shout outs on *More Live Music* are any indication, he s found favor in Berkeley. (self)

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About The Negro Problem...
The Negro Problem, led by singer-songwriter Stew, received its name to focus attention on the segregation of the music industry where record executives might like the sound of Stew's music but have "a problem" with his race. Formed in 1995 The Negro Problem is an eclectic and theatrical band combining bring social satire with gritty folk and psychedelic pop. Stew and Heidi Rodewald also collaborated on the highly acclaimed 2008 Broadway musical Passing Strange, which originated at Berkeley Rep was adapted into a film of the same name, directed by Spike Lee. The return of Stew & The Negro Problem promises to be a prayer answered for their fans, and to the uninitiated, an introduction to a singular talent who knows no boundaries.
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PAMELA ROSE WILD WOMEN OF SONG
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

[illegible]

THURSDAY 4

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible]

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

[illegible]

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible]

FRIDAY 5

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible]

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Experimental & Avant Garde

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

[illegible]

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible]

SATURDAY 6

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible]

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

Massive Attack w/ Thievery Corporation. Greek Theatre, 7 pm. [illegible]

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible]

oceanography

teri falini

anna coogan



the starry plough

saturday november 6th 8pm



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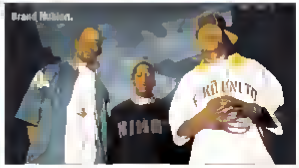
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-Vanessa Bedgley/ Voice
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-Joyce Lee/ Spoken word
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-Gray Akbar
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-Lauren Benjamin
-Makeda Bashir
-Malia Becton
-Marissa Arterberry
-Valerie Brown-Troutt
www.thesheepeople.com

PICKS

Brand Nubian

Solid as the three emcees of **Brand Nubian** make it out to the East Bay Fest's anthem-ar he they plan a sleek return. The **Yoshi's**. But this week, the stars aligned perfectly. Local backpacker fans will get a rare opportunity to check out emcees **Grand Puba**, **Sadat X**, and **Lord Jamar** with good lighting and a top-notch sound system. More than just a throwback, Brand Nubian is a group with staying power. It contrasted the cheesiness of other Native-era hip-hop with lyrics that were genuinely about something — even if something ain't suited to aerobic politics ("Punks Jump Up to Get Beat Down") or lessons gleaned from the **Nation of Gods and Earths**. Unlike many of their peers, it use emcees made a strong, pop-cul ture impact but had a realistic conception of their own importance. They gave more currency to the phrase "word is bond" fo a fantastic 1994 hit and came up with such ear-worthy tracks as "Slow Down," "Love Me or Leave Me Alone," "All for One" and "Don't Let It Go to Your Head." Hopefully they'll revisit those songs on Thursday Nov. 4 at Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero, Oakland). 8 & 10 p.m., $24. Yoshis.com. — Rachel Swan



Dulka

Dulka brings her own unique flavor to Latin music. She was born on Mallorca (a parcel from Equatorial Guinea) where she fell in love with flamenco guitar and gypsy jazz. While working as a **Tina Turner** impersonator in Las Vegas, she picked up a lot of soul and R&B. She's lent her vocal chords to dance hits, but her heart and soul is in her own style of fusion, a combination of African, flamenco jazz, and other Latin styles. She's touring to support *El Ultimo Trago*, an album of songs made famous by the Mexican singer **Chavela Vargas** with arrangements that blend! believe with Afro-Cuban jazz. Al **Zellerbach Hall** (UC Berkeley campus) on Friday Nov. 5, 8 p.m. 526-634 CalPerfs.berkeley.edu. — *Joyce Lee*

Florence and the Machine

Heartbreak is always a reliable accelerant for spurring the creative fires, and I never been more evident than when **Florence and the Machine** hit the studio to record *Is 2009 debut Lungs*. At that point singer **Florence Welch** had temporarily broken up with her boyfriend **Stuart Hammond**. The first hint of something special music-wise came when Kins with a Fist hit the UK airwaves during the summer of 2008. It maintained blurring bede and physical in-for-tat, among other forms of aggression. Since then, Welch and her crew have been touring up the tour circuit and unleashing soulfully inspired songs on our ears. Among them are a swaggering, harp-based



C&C

the Sour Festival 2010 w/ Monster JT, Grand, Alex Reuben, Transmissionaire, DowellSynthson, Zion Cali, KMK, Jah Kraze, Camille Green, & a Robbert Band drive... People's Park, 12-6 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Edda Poptschuk Trio w/ Quintin, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6:9 pm, free

Blues, Folk & Country

Doon Doon Bazuka & Blues, 8 pm, $10
Kris Brown (V) Amoeba, 3 pm, $5
Mattheda & Matthes Indian Folk music w/ Sheri Mignano, Cafe Intimo 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Oswald Blanket Babylon Oswald Music Club Lounge 1 & 10 pm, $20-$17
SFJAZZ Presents Joy Kaynes and the Fantasia of Youth Band Herbst Theatre, 8 pm, $25, $45, $65

Rock & Pop

Oswald Revolt, Plaria Al Doon Bottom of the Hill 9:30 pm, $10
Oswald Jr w/ Jill Tracy, Oddfest @ Pop Bound Zoo Cafe du Nord, 6:30 pm, $15
Evolution: the Ultimate Tribute to Journey / Le Montana Slim's, 9 pm, $24, $35
Black & Tall Happy Hour Show w/ local bands, Thee Parkside, 3-8 pm, free
Blogic, Lauren Mechanics & Square, Rendezvous Tavern, 8:30 pm, $5
Brian Kelly Presents: Big Light w/ Big Universe, Scraping For Change, Ultimate Harmony, Lisa Castellanos, & Body or Brain, Great American Music Hall, 7 pm, $15

$12.15 pm, free

Oswald Blanket Babylon Oswald Music Club Lounge 1 & 10 pm, $20-$17
SFJAZZ Presents Joy Kaynes and the Fantasia of Youth Band Herbst Theatre, 8 pm, $25, $45, $65

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Blogic, Lauren Mechanics & Square, Rendezvous Tavern, 8:30 pm, $5
Brian Kelly Presents: Big Light w/ Big Universe, Scraping For Change, Ultimate Harmony, Lisa Castellanos, & Body or Brain, Great American Music Hall, 7 pm, $15

Small Band w/ Class Actress & Young Prisms, The Independent, 5 pm, $12 $14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Jody Watley Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $25, $30
Mavis Staples & Billy Bragg The Fillmore, 8 pm, $26 $30
Saturday Night Soul Party w/ Rita Pink Dance Floor, Paul & Phantom Oswald Elec Room, 10 pm, $5
SFJAZZ Presents Lalah Palace of Fine Arts, 8 pm, $30 $50 $75

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Tango No. 9 With Odile Lavoie, Beth Custer, Daniel Fellmann, and Sandy Reinheimer, Rex Valley Mondays, 8:15 pm, $15-$17

SUNDAY 7

EAST BAY

All Ages

Rockcreek Ashkenaz, Nov 16

Blues, Folk & Country

Rockcreek Unplugged Jupiter, 5 pm, free
Dudley Nemenoff & The Theatre Boat, The Bands, Commissioners Mama Sam, 1-8 pm, free
Jimmy's All-Star Super Shattock Jimmy Nordo's different blues band every week, Peter's Restaurant, 5 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Gunsmoke Jolly Kerfe Hall, 3 pm, $42
Greg Guntow & East Bay Gem Kerfe's, 7 pm, $20
Jim Grantham Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free
The Jolly Shitshooter Duo: Celebrating the Quotes Jupiter, 4:30 pm, $17
Mary Fund Collective, soprano w. Mike Comber on piano Piedmont Piano Company, 3 pm, $20, $40

Rock & Pop

Loungepoodoo Starry Plough, 2 pm, free
Blindspeakers, Jewel Voodoo, Greyhirt, Voodoo, 10 Lounge Rebellion, LV 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Crystal Quotes Hall Plymouth United Church of Christ, 5 pm, $15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Suffolk Sallespoor's Belly Quotes Nights Berkeley students from Suffolk Sallespoor School of Dance, Club Mediterra, 6 pm, $1

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge, Rasht's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight, $3

Blues, Folk & Country

Hugh Harvey and Theatre Quote blues jam, Skip's Tavern, 4:30 pm free

Classical & Opera

Michael Stuart on piano for Sunday afternoon ragtime brunch, Top of the Mike, 10 am-1 pm, $58 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rasht's Backyard Calypso musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 5 pm, $25-$72

Karl Hank Trio Cheryl Bensonte, 6-8 pm free

Lounge: Songwriters Unplugged w/ Skip the Jewish Scott, Cody Moody, Kevin Welch Rasht's San Francisco, 8:30 pm, $7

SOLD Presents Acid Jeans & Jet Boss Lounge 16 Honor 7 pm, $20

Yellowjackets The Jeff Lorber Fusion w/ Randy Quotes & The Marienthal, Patrice at First Arts, 7 pm, $25, $45, $65

Rock & Pop

Audio Sushi w/ Werewolves, The Art of Shooting, 5, Technicolor Miles, Bastard Tavern, 5 pm, $7

Kevin Quotes w/ Peaty, The Grand Ballroom, 7 pm, 116 50

Angels, Penny Mountain, Dead Kevin Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10

Jason Hunsch The Independent, 8 pm, sold out

Mike Quotes The Independent, 8 pm, sold out

Indieconsiderers and Remixed w/ Blue Blue Gum & Dead Kaye, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $15

Terry Bluestock of NASH Rasht's San Francisco, 8 pm, $25

MONDAY 8

EASY BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Jam McGrath's Pub, 7:30 pm, free

Dead Quotes Quotient, Mardi Gras, 1-6 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

An intimate evening with the Quotes and the author Iain "Robbie" Lewis and Kevin Moore, Piedmont Piano Company, 5 pm, $70

DC Jazz Ensemble Project 8, 7:30 & 10 pm, $8, $25







VENUE DIRECTORY

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21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space 510-238-9200, Quotes 510-444-7263
Il Pegaso at Solano 1403 Shattuck Ave, Albany, 510-528-1234
924 Quotes 924 Gilman St, Berkeley, 510-525-9924
Ale Ire 5 Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Poso Oakland, 510-444-2317
Blowup at Ruby's Club 2508 Polk Ave, Berkeley, 510-843-2473, Weekend Pub Quiz
The Alley 3808 Grand Ave, Oakland 510-444-4595
Oakland Metro 2055 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley, 510-645-1126
Antonello's 707 Mission Vista Ave, Manuel, 925-228-6885
Art Moore Campus & Quotient, Cowden 2986 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, 510-579-1178
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, 510-525-5054
Asua 4325 Hayward (Pleasanton, 925-416-0177
Bay Street Quote 5610 Bay St, Emeryville
Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1700
Beehive at the Quote 3110 11th St, Oakland, 510-444-7788
Black Quote Quotes for the Arts 2961 Lewelin St., Alameda, 510-522-8467
The Bistro 10611 S. Dr., Hayward, 510-886-6525,
Blakes on Telegraph 2381 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley, 510-848-0868,
Cafe Trieste 2509 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5108,
Campo di Bocce 1175 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore, 925-243-8168
Club Lusso 1228 Penn St, Quotes Creek, 510-528-4556,
Club 21 2111 Franklin St, Oakland 510-288-8425,
Club Adagio 428 3rd St., Oakland, 510-463-0185,
Quotes Hill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224
Lounge Lux 6291 Jerry St. Martinez, 925-726-3347
Georgia Lounge 5422 Lounge Ave (Ashlan, (209) 447-7881
Gus's Irish Sports Bar 1574 Quote Blvd (by Walnut Creek, 925-932-1331
Eagles Hall 2 Alameda Ave Alameda, 415-749-0300
Easy Lounge 3256 Lakeshore Ave, Oakland, 510-388-4811,

Everett & Rose Barbeque 126 Quotes way Oakland, 510-663-2350
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way Berke ley 510-848-2686,
First Presbyterian Church 2600 Fremont, Oakland, 510-444-3505,
Fox Theatre 1807 Telegraph Jay Oakland, foxoakland.com
Genes 1711 W. Grayson Rd Hayward, 510-783-1700
Freight & Salvage 2020 Kittredge St, Berkeley, 510-548-2020,
Herb Wolf 66 Mc Kinley Boulevard, Way at College Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9988
Island Paradise Club 1438 Webster St. Alameda, 510-846-3226,
Rockcreek 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5375
Quotes Community Center of the East Bay 1515 Walnut St, Berkeley 510-644-6321
Jake's Coffee & Tea Hemont 1223 Park St, Oakland, 510-865-2386
Lounge 2 of Quotes Ave Berkeley 510-843-8211
Kathleen City 1116 Quotes St. Oakland 510-251-6780
Khemet's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland 510-444-6401
King Tide Oakland, Restaurant 1099 Solano Ave., Berkeley
Kingpins & Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave Oakland 510-465-5464
Kingpins 3 by Hotel 158 San Pablo Ave. Albany, 510 526-5088,
Kitty's 5780 Hollis St, Emeryville 510-601-9302
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave Berkeley 510-849-2568
Lake Merritt Lounge Barbecue Lounge 1330 Lakeshore Ave Oakland, 510-465-4783,
Restaurant/Hotel Campo Lounge 3534 Lakeshore Ave Oakland, 510-893-2484
Lounge Lounge Theatre 6307 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-3443
Last Weekend Lounge 2329 Grand Hemt Ave Alameda 510-523-4790,
Lounge 2411 MacArthur Blvd Oakland,
Lounge's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Quotes way Oakland, 510-451-4917
Lounge's Sports Bar & Grill 2721 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7565
Oakland, a Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland, 510-839-6188
Miramont Lounge 2900 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley 510 595-2900,
Mountain Winery 14 831 Pierre Rd Saratoga, 408 741-2822
Normal Quote 9500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344,

Oakland, City Quotes 8451 12th St., Oakland 510-238-6836
Oakland Music Quotehouse 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146,
ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way Oakland, 510 569-2121,
Para Una Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave Oakland, 510 735-8085,
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway Oakland, 510-465-6400
The Quote Parish 5701 18th St. Oakland, 510-444-7263, www.quoteparish.com
Peter's Restaurant 23 Lafayette Circle Lafayette, 510-284-1117
Pleasanton Hotel 555 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-8866,
Quotes's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove Oakland 510-536-2650,
Radio 435 23rd St. Oakland
Rainbow Quotes 1953 Mt. Diablo Blvd Lafayette 925 284-4887
Rasht's Restaurant 1708 Quotes Ave Alameda, 510-337-610(
Ruby Room 132 14th St. Oakland, 510-444 7274
Solano Bowl 52911 Bassett Rd., Fremont, 510-979-8477
Sherbeck Bowl Low 2784 Shattuck Ave Berkeley 510-845 1158
Quotient, Highlands 2401 San Ramon Valley Blvd Sa n Ram on, San Ramon
Sheridan Amphitheatre The Amphitheatre Pkwy Mountain View 650-967-3000
Spanish Quotes 2425 Lounge Ave., Alameda 510-522-1300
Spontaneous Lounge 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-933-5977
St. Dark & Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-845-5387
St. Mary's Episcopal Lounge 2727 College Ave Berkeley 510-845-0630,
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-849 2082
Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Jay Oakland 510-444-8174
Quotes Fridays 464 E 14th St. San Leandro 510-553-9500
Uptown 1970 Telegraph Jay Oakland, 510-451-8900
Lounging Bar & Grill 2946 St. Quotes St., Concord 925 685-9515
Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5565 Arroyo Road Livermore 925-456-2450,
Wheeler Restaurant UC Berkeley Berkeley 510-642-4998
White Horse Inn 6656 Telegraph Jay Oakland, 510-652-3820
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland 510-238 9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510 642 9988
Zoe's Restaurant 552 Grand Ave Oakland, 510 839 0124

CAC

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The Grateful Jam with AJ SAJ's Tavern. 1:30 pm free

Rock & Pop

Average White Band Yoshi's, San Francisco, 8 pm $60 $25

Counterintellect w/ Aesthetic Perfection (Wavefunction), Cold Module, & DJ Penny (Loose Guild). 54in's, 7:30 pm, $10, $12

Dumb Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

Razorblaze w/ Bitten Limbs, Spawn Abomb, & The Bolegs Jump Bliss Bones, 9 pm, $5

TUESDAY 9

EAST BAY

All Ages

Guardrails Ashkenaz, 7:30 pm, $8

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Dance Night w/ Jamaica, Vinnie's Bar & Grill 7:30-11 pm, free

Women Ready Pete's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

Sylvia Brown & Rick Daugherty Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7-9 pm, free (Donations accepted)

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Oakland Bones Assembly The Uptown, 9 pm, no cover

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Kaleidoscope Tuesdays A recurring residency from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter. 8 pm, free

Women Ready Presents: Wild Women of Song Yoshi's, 8 pm, $18

Mardi Gras Open Mic w/ Ellen Hoffman Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm $6 $5, 99 $6

Rock & Pop

Kyndwell's Music Biz Presents featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Crowd City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Bright Eyes, & more. The Uptown, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Pentagram w/ Bombshell Betty & Her Burlesqueteers Elbo Room 9 pm, $15

Jazz Jam hosted by Paul Harvey, Skip's Take It In, 6:30 pm, free

Marty Sawtell Pier 23, 8:30 pm, free

Tuesday Night Jump! Stompy alone plays with Jazz, plus it being Bobby Brown's host! Club, 8 pm, $10-$12

WEDNESDAY 10

EAST BAY

All Ages

Mike Wellenberg and jazz guitar Bebop Cakers, 8 pm-10 pm, free

Blues, Folk & Country

Archie Jones Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $18.50 $19.50

Bakersfield, Ashkenaz, Hip-Hop-ops Blackbird, Psychic Headbook Mama Buzz, 7-8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bob Sima & the Sound Mine Rasputin's Redwood, 8:30 pm, free

The Fellowship Band Featuring **Peter Slade, Ellen Thomas, and Ashkenaz, Myron Walden, Mackey Bones, & Jeff Bones** Yoshi's, Nov 10-11, 8 & 10 pm, $18 $18

Mary Ellen Chevalier Avenue w/ Miles Cather on piano, Piedmont Piano Company, 8 pm, $20 $40

Women Gold Jazz Band Swan Park, 7-9 pm, free

Will Bloom piano music. Campo di Bocce, 5-9 pm free

Rock & Pop

Big Thief Rock Band showcase presented by Pirate Cat Radio. This week: Triangle-ABC, Club Crashbar, & Red Paint, the Uptown, 9 pm free

Eddie's Birthday Benefit The Uptown, 8 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

SSN Opening Brunch w/ Caitlin Faulkner: Women in Western Music A drama about the life of folksinger Jimmie Rodgers, written by Lolan Valdez & directed by Renato Valdez, La Peña Cultural Center, free, 10-12 pm, $15, Free Performance 1 pm, $12

Ballad Fahrenheit w/ Reese Kinsen at 7 p.m. Ashkenaz, 8 pm $7

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at

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SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

BS Wednesdays featuring Annabelle vs. Brenda CDNA, 8 pm, $7

Dwarf Women Galore musical revue and spoof of pop-culture Bones, on which Shiva White Bones based the world in search of Robert Downey, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $15-$17

Weezer w/ the Mike Marcus Session, Armenia, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Ashkenaz w/ Lemonade & Butterfly Bones, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $16, $18

Noel Special Bones w/ The Poison Control Center & Guitar Vs. Gravity Elbo Bones 8 pm $7

Terry Bones w/ Ensemble Williams & Lilac, Wreckers Oyster II pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Freddy Fresno and Le Bla and Latin, Gamelan Mediterranean & contemporary folk, Peace Performance 1 pm, $12

Lounge: Tribute Movement w/ Third Foundation African Dance and Drum Festival Yoshi's San Anbones, 8 pm $7

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Chalo@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Chalo Editor, East Bay Express, 6201 3rd St, Oakland CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

Jupiter

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SELECTOR: DJ TOPH ONE

THURS 11/4

8 pm Whether contributing to XLNRR Mag or running his long-time Red Wine parties throughout SF Toph One has been a top flight DJ for years, a hip-hop DJ raised by house music BJs mixing punknrock with electro jazz breaks with new wave spinning fun music for drinking and wiggling and kissing girls (or boys).

Venue facebook.com/tophone

MOJO STEW

FRI 11/5

8 pm Mojo Stew mixes jazz funk, soul rock and blues for an eclectic and tasty mix of musical styles influenced greatly by modern jazz/funk bands like Soulive, Robert Walter Charlie Hunter etc. they also draw on traditional jazz and rock/blues influences.

Venue myspace.com/mojostewmusic

PAUL VORNHAGEN TRIO

SUN 11/7

8 pm In from Ann Arbor MI and making his debut at Jup, Paul Vornhagen is an accomplished jazz saxophonist, flutist and vocalist who has won Detroit Music Awards on three separate occasions.

Venue paulvornhagenmusic

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DOORS 8 PM | $10 ADV | $12-$15 DOS

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FRIDAY 11/19 | LAT'N BEATS

LOCURA PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

DOORS 8:30 PM | Show 9:30 | $10 ADV | $15 / 18+

SATURDAY 11/20

KINGS GO FORTH PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

DOORS 8:30 PM | $10 ADV | $7 ADV / $10 / 18+

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blue Note w Sonam Dorn Bunoo spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 pm, free

Bonus Gig w Hi-Tek Radio DJ Chill Fox, Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, free

Dubclubs Thursdays Radio, 10 pm, free

DJ Jerry Boo spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

Oil Tekh spinning, lounge, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free

Plight Time featuring DJ Dirt Badger, The Layover, 10 pm, free

Quiksilver Mix featuring Dub Pistols, Uncle Joe Lube's Espresso & Lounge, 10 pm, $8

RIFF RAFF with DJ Jeep, interruptor, new asian, Fenris, 10 pm-2 am, free

Saturday Valentine w/ Interrupt spanish, electro, dance, new wave, B-Side, The Layover, 9:30 pm, free

Schooner 61 Tiki Bar Jupiter, 9 pm, free

Temple of Hearts w DJ Phat Boi spinning hip-hop, R&B, The Uptown Lounge, 10 pm, free

Throwback Thursdays Shitloom Nightclub, 7 pm, $4

Yerba Buena Sessions featuring Bo Carlos Wave and Cook, Rotten and Bar B, free, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Afrolicious w DJs Soho Phenomenology, Atomic Bo, & Bonsa spinning Afrobeat, samba funk, Elbo Room, 21 yrs, $8

DJ Carmelo & Registered spinning world music, Cafe 9, 9 pm, free

Lemon Bonzai w DJ White Heat and Friends featuring special guests The Knockout, 10 pm, free

FRIDAY 5

EAST BAY

Bro Job w Bar Eddy Baxter and his Friends spanning Bee Gees and glam jams, the Mission Lounge, 10 pm, free

Club 28 w 80s spanning Latin music, Club 28, 9 pm, $4-$10

DJ MITH's Euro Short Shirt Remix The Layover, 10 pm, free

Friday Night Salsa w dance DJs spanning salsa, La Cave Bar Club, 10 pm, $5

Happy Hours w DJ Gordon Grant spanning punk, new radio & indie rock, the Alley Lounge, 4-8 pm, free

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Santiago Baker spanning salsa, merengue, bomba, Spanish pop, & house, Bonzai and Bar B, 9 pm-2 am, $5-$15

Old-School bassline, grime, funky, Radio, 9 pm, free

Quiksilver DJ Joe Baker spinning funk, Latin, & R&B, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

Reggae Showcase Sweet Peppers, 9 pm, free

Sultry Fridays DJ Lush & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 8 pm, $5

Vybe Int'l w DJs Soho, Bonzai, & Heinrich spanning soul, reggae, dancehall, & more, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Clement Fridays w / starring DJs spanning house, R&B, funk, & more, Clubbed Thing, 9 pm, $5

Fridays at the Hall Dunnit w / DJs Carmen & Melinda spanning soul, funk, & more, Hall, 5 pm, free

Loose Lucy's w / DJ Tom Thump and Guests, Make-Out Room, 10 pm, 6th

Rotten w Bar K-Rud, Vespa Sunshine, Brian

Ty B New Underground 5F 9 pm $

SATURDAY 6

EAST BAY

5th Saturdays w DJ Hector Air Bar B Lounge, 8 pm, $10

All Productions & Nostalgic 80s spanning R&B & hip-hop, Fenris, 10 pm, free

Bare Elements a Bay Area Burn, Bare Elements Space, 9 pm-6 am, $30-$40

Bass Culture spanning dubstep, grime, & more, Maxwell's Lounge, 9 pm, $20

Bayside Party Night w / DJ old, White Horse Bar, 8 pm, $5

BUT Element: Attack of the monster: Lizard Lounge DJ Scream, Milkbeer & Dr Frankenstein, Bubbles on Telegraph, 9 pm

Boba Soul Uncle cowboy night w/ 80s spanning salsa, bomba, & Bonsai start hot, grab sequence Club 21, 9 pm, $10-$15

Mac Knee D Crew w 70s Mac Knee and Farmer Market rockstars at 2:00 p.m. Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

Reggae Night Conga Lounge, 10 pm, free

Shadow/Sonic w Kolsch & Tommie Sunshine Company Sinbad, Jill Farber, & Dino Maiden, Oakland Metro Opera House, 9 pm, $25-$35

Weekend Fantasy w / DJ Sammie, Shattuck Down Low 9 pm, $10 21+ entrance

Warm-Up w DJ Fluid Cut spanning hip-hop, R&B, The Uptown Lounge, 9:30 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Club Obsession w DJ Shaz spanning the Beastie Boys, Black Eyed Peas, Missy's, 10 pm, free before 10 pm, $10 10 pm onward

Exploded Superstar w DJ Chris Summers spanning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups, Element Lounge, 9 pm, $10

New Wave Bitz Elbo Room, patio, DNA Lounge, 9 pm, DJ Deejay, $10

Pride Dance spinning Party featuring DJs Tony T, Fenen, Eddy, The Powerdriver, DJ B

Rich Bitch & Relax w / Cara 4 p.m.-9 p.m., B Miss 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Club 1220, 4 pm-2 am, free

Shrubbery Night dance DJs spin hip-hop, new wave, & electro, Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Underground Lounge presents Who'll come 7th music, Fenris, 10 pm-2 am, free

SUNDAY 7

EAST BAY

King of Kings DJ Sandra-Dee and guests spin reggae, dancehall, dance, & lovers rock, Starlight Room, Live, 9 pm, $10 ladies/gentlemen free before 11 pm

Bonus w DJ Mystical spinning soul, funk, & Afrobeats, old-school, Sugar Bar & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Soul Sanctuary Dance dancehall, 11 pm-2 am, $5-$15 free to newsmen or children 12 & under

Lovers Rock Sista Sundays Hip spin-ska, rocksteady & roots-Reggay, The Holey Toley Club 7 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Rotten w / Solar and Nikola plus Bonsai spinning house, funk, Bubble and soul, Triple Crown, 10 pm

DJ Anthony Allen Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, free

Rotating Fire DJ Stepwise & guests spin reggae & dancehall, Underground SF, 9 pm, free before 12:30 pm, $5

Turn Bird DJ Bonsai & guests spin soul, jazz, soul, & funk, Rabat, 9 pm, free

MONDAY 8

EAST BAY

DJ Jugs spanning dub, ska, & soul, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

TUESDAY 9

EAST BAY

Country Music Night plus free dancing, Club 1220, 9 pm, free

DJ Joe Baker spinning salsa, La Cave Bar Club, Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Wendy spanning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free

Industry Live w / DJ Mind Motion & guests Sport Bike Lounge & Gourmet Pool, 9 pm, $10

Vintage featuring DJ Topic One & weekly Ramon spanning deep cuts from the 60's through Weekend Lavender Cafe, 7 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 10

EAST BAY

80s Night with Mr DNA Mr DNA dons wings from the 80s, plus drink specials by Cary, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

Bonus Way w / DJs Jel & Odd Oakland all Ankeny The Oakland Lounge, 10 pm-2 am, free

Bonus Off open mic poetry, Glenwood by DJ music, Air Bar B Lounge, $10 pm

Bonus Punk, Indie, New wave, & Electro w/ DJ Isaac Green Mallory, Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am free

Bonus, Hydrocodays DJ Bonsai, & Bonsai spin salsa, bomba, merengue, Highland, 9 pm, plus salsa Bonsai lessons, Latin's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

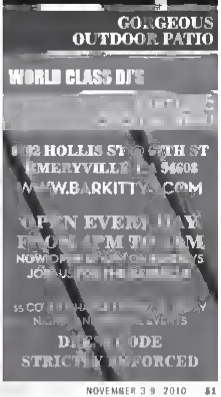
PICK

Massive Attack
UK rap-hop stalwart Massive Attack and Washington, DC dance band Thievery Corporation bring some chill beats to the **Greek Theatre** (Gayley Rd. at Hearst Ave., Berkeley) this weekend. The British team headed by **Robert Del Naja** released *Heligoland* this year and the *El Atlas Air* beat they may never surmount their early Nineties high-water marks *Blue Lines*, *Protection*, and *Mezzanine*. Thievery Corporation's **Rob Garza** and **Eric Hilton** have been chilling out crowds since *Sounds from the Thievery Hi Fi* in 1997. Today they own a handful of the cooler nightclubs in the nation and, not surprisingly, dabbling in the politics of the town as well. The duo took a victory lap this year with compilation *It Takes a Thief: The Very Best of Thievery Corporation*. Expect lots of trippy visuals and big bass under a chilly but gorgeous Berkeley sky. On Saturday, Nov. 6 & 7 pm. $35. VPEC.com/tix. 21 and over. — *David Downs*









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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443637
The following individual is doing business as: **Grin Fa**
St and Address: 17 S Day St Alameda, CA 94501 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Dr. Lil Grant & Sandrine F. Green, 17 S Day St, Alameda, CA 94501 This business is conducted by a Partnership The registrant began to transact business under the Fictitious business name listed above on 10/2/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Business County on 10/6/2010
Grin Fa
10/08, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443623-29
The following individual is doing business as: **Bay ATM, First ATM, Pacific Bancshares**
Statement: Set out Address: 2625 K. of Ave #118, Berkeley CA 94705 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Pacific Bancshares, 2625 K. of Ave #118, Berkeley CA 94705. This business is conducted by a Partnership The registrant began to transact business under the Fictitious business name listed above is 1/1/2007. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / business County on 10/6/2010
Bay ATM, First ATM, Grand-view Bancshares
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443715
The following individual is doing business as: **Emissions Transportation Service**
Statement Set Address: 5855 Doyle Ave Suite A2 Dublin, CA 94568 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Joshua Coleman Phillips & Hans Schwertmann, Pro 5 219 Mcnage Way, Brinda, CA 94520 This business is conducted by a Partnership The registrant began to transact business under the Fictitious business name listed above is N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Emissions Transportation Service
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443758
The following individual is doing business as: **Rossmoor Pharmacy**
Pharmacy Statement Set Address: 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Rossmoor Pharmacy Inc, 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the Fictitious business name listed above is N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Rossmoor Pharmacy
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
BARNETT WILLIAMS
Case No. RP10519044
All persons, in business conditional rights, claims who are interested in the estate, or both, of BARNETT WILLIAMS A.K.A. BARNETT LEON WILLIAMS A.K.A. BARNETT LEON WILLIAMS, JR. has been filed by Nicole Williams in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
THE PERSON FOR PERSONAL reasons is Nicole Williams be appointed as personal representative of Barnett Williams in the estate. The decedent THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action. The independent Administration of Estates Act will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and the court finds any objection has good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 11/2/2010 at 9:30 A.M. in Dept. 201 located at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, BERKELEY CA 94704
YOU SHOULD be the hearing of the petition, you may appear at the hearing and object to the petition if you desire. If you appear at the hearing and do not object to the petition, you will be deemed to have consented to the proposed administration of the estate. You may request special notice of the hearing date, notice of action taken by the personal representative, or any other matter concerning the estate by filing a request with the court clerk before the hearing. Your request for special notice must be in writing and must include your name and address and the name of the estate you are interested in. You may attend the hearing in person or by your attorney.
YOU MAY ALSO OBJECT to the grant of the petition if you believe it is not in the best interest of the estate. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney: NICOLE WILLIAMS, 2969 Rosina Road, Oakland, CA 94602
Telephone: 510-378-5026
10/27, 11/3, 11/10/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443815
The following individual is doing business as: **Functional Photonics** Street Address: 5215 Cavitt Lane, Livermore, CA 94550 Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Bradeen, 5215 Cavitt Lane, Livermore, CA 94550 The business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Functional Photonics
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443904
The following individual is doing business as: **Great Goods Productions** Street Address: 2705 Mathews St, Berkeley, CA 94702 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Alexander Peterson, 2705 Mathews St, Berkeley CA 94702 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Great Goods Productions
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443914
The following individual is doing business as: **Rossmoor Pharmacy**
Environmental Monitoring Set Address: 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Rossmoor Pharmacy Inc, 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above is N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Rossmoor Pharmacy
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443918
The following individual is doing business as: **Rossmoor Pharmacy**
Environmental Monitoring Set Address: 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Rossmoor Pharmacy Inc, 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above is N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Rossmoor Pharmacy
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443919
The following individual is doing business as: **Rossmoor Pharmacy**
Environmental Monitoring Set Address: 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Rossmoor Pharmacy Inc, 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above is N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Rossmoor Pharmacy
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443934
The following individual is doing business as: **Bridge Studio** Street Address: 53 Mandana Blvd Apt 2, Oakland, CA 94610 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Sirapinne Alford, 451 B 38th Street, Oakland, CA 94609 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/15/2010 This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 10/20/2010.
Bridge Studio
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443937
The following individual is doing business as: **Trust Foundation** Set Address: 4122 Mead St Emeryville, CA 94608, Mailing Address: 2548 Powell St Ste 11-2 Emeryville, CA 94608 This business is conducted by the following owner: Brad Sherman, 4122 Mead St Emeryville, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Alameda County on 10/15/2010
Trust Foundation
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443938
The following individual is doing business as: **Rossmoor Pharmacy**
Environmental Monitoring Set Address: 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Rossmoor Pharmacy Inc, 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Rossmoor Pharmacy
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443939
The following individual is doing business as: **Rossmoor Pharmacy**
Environmental Monitoring Set Address: 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Rossmoor Pharmacy Inc, 3705 Clayton Rd Concord, CA 94519 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Alameda County on 10/7/2010
Rossmoor Pharmacy
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 443940
The following individual is doing business as: **Bridge Studio** Street Address: 53 Mandana Blvd Apt 2, Oakland, CA 94610 Mailing Address: Same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: Sirapinne Alford, 451 B 38th Street, Oakland, CA 94609 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 10/15/2010 This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder / Alameda County on 10/20/2010.
Bridge Studio
10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/2010

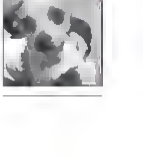
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LOCK IT UP

On male chastity and erectile dysfunction

By Dan Savage

I have a bit of a situation. I'm a 33-year-old heterosexual male and I am married. My wife and I also happen to have a girlfriend now, making our arrangement a polyamorous triad. We all love each other very much and we are getting to the point that we are thinking about how we are going to tell our parents about our relationship.

My wife's family in Southern Baptist while my girlfriend's mother is a big ol' bag of crazy. She was a physically abusive nut job who beat her children with a Bible attached to a rope.

Our question is this: Should we even bother disclosing to either of their sets of Bible-beat any parents? Do you have an even better idea about who my mother-in-law is? I'm a recovering addict (two years sober) and after I told her that in confidence she used it against me the first chance she got (called me a thieving junkie). She's a hypocritical judgmental bitch, but my wife feels like she needs her approval.

If we shouldn't disclose then how do we deal with things like family holidays and other group events? Is not disclosing a sign that either my wife or girlfriend is ashamed of the life we lead? Your help would be appreciated.

Not Telling The Whole Truth

You don't mention how long you've been in this poly triad NTTWT... but seeing as you're only 23 and were already married before you met the girlfriend, you can't have been in this poly triad for very long. For that reason I'm gonna advise against disclosing the true nature of your relationship(s) for the time being, NTTWT. Not because you have anything to be ashamed of — your most ostensible do not — but because relationships with parents are best run on a need-to-know basis.

And it doesn't sound like your wife's parents need to know — not yet. This triad is new, and like most romantic relationships, it may not stand the test of time. For the moment, introducing your girlfriend as a friend, if your MIL is curious about why you're all living together say something vague about the economy. If it turns out that your triad is one for the ages, NTTWT then you can come out to your MIL and weather the judgmental shitstorm.

All that said, NTTWT, I do think loving, committed nonmonogamous couples should be open with their families if only to prove to people that loving, committed nonmonogamous couples exist. I'm not encouraging you to be closeted, just strategic. Your wife's family is more likely to be accepting if they perceive your marriage as not just loving, but lasting. Give it a few years, NTTWT, and then, whether the current girlfriend is still in the picture or not, your wife can let her mother know — as matter-of-factly as possible — that you're poly.

What do you know about orgasm denial for men? My husband is asking me to try all kinds of crazy things like locking him in a chastity device, and denying him orgasms until he begs. Is that safe? Do many couples do it? I admit I find it kind of sexy, but how in the world do I figure out how to do it and make it fun for him?

Wants Info For Extras

Except in the most extreme cases, male chastity play isn't really about orgasm denial. It's more of an elaborate, extended kind of foreplay, a way of introducing elements of erotic power and control that usually result in the denied/chaste man having more orgasms, not fewer.

There's no way of knowing how many wives out there are locking up their husbands' dicks, WIFS, but there are enough couples doing it to keep male chastity device manufacturers in business (CB-6000.com) and enough couples interested in male chastity play for publishers to bring out books that explain how to do it and how to make it pleasurable.

Make sure you get a male chastity device that fits properly. WIFE, as you don't want his dick to go numb, develop gangrene, and fall off — that would be *antifunction*, not chastity. And don't deny your husband orgasms for weeks at months on end, as that could elevate his risk for developing prostate cancer (his orgasms flush carcinogens from his prostate).

I'm a guy in my late Thirties and have been married for twelve mostly happy years, with three kids. I've never cheated despite a boring sex life that I've tried to spice up. My efforts were not received well. We've talked at length about the frequency and style of our sex life, but she's not interested in having sex very often unless she's in the mood, which happens in two ways. I've thought about having sex with other women but have never acted on any of the opportunities that came my way. I've jerked off to plenty of porn in the meantime though.

Anyway, I met a girl we're attracted to each other and we decide to go for it. No, my wife does not know. Yes I'm an asshole. And the problem is, suddenly I can't get it up — for either of them! Neither my hand nor porn work either. WTF? I have NEVER had this problem. It's been three attempts — patient girl, huh? — and so far nothing. I can't tell if this is guilt, performance anxiety, or what. Has my wife porn and my hand ruined me for having sex with other women?

No Catchy Sign-Off

I'm thinking it's either guilt-induced performance anxiety or a huge and highly unlikely coincidence. A medical checkup can rule out the latter. NCSO but WIFE, thorough examination of your feelings, your motives, and your circumstances can help the former.

You've taken a huge and potentially very consequential step. You're gonna cheat on the wife (three attempts? you're already cheating on the wife) NCSO and if the wife finds out — and that's a pretty small if — that could mean divorce. Seeing as the potential consequences for you, your wife, and your kids are so dire that you've been struck boneless, I would advise you to stop seeing the potential girl. *— Jane new*

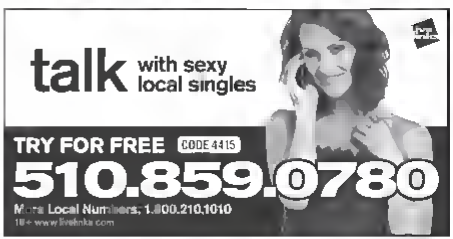
You're going to have to talk to the wife about your frustrations and the possibility of opening up your marriage. Because the only way your dick is going to work with other women NCSO is if you're not risking everything with it. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage

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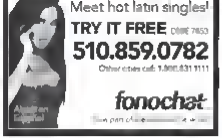
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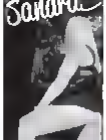
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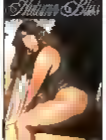
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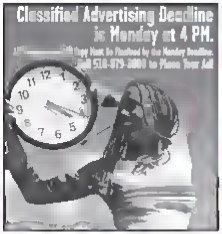






















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